Dudley
CHRONICLE

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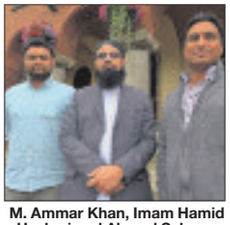
MOSQUE CASH BID REJECTED



M. Ammar Khan, Imam Hamid Hashmi and Ahmed Saboor from Dudley Central Mosque

Report by Rob Cox

A PROPOSED cash deal for a new Dudley mosque has been unanimously rejected by council bosses – meaning the long-running saga is set to rumble on.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) had made a £325,000 offer to bring an end to the dispute over plans for a replacement mosque.

But, on Monday night, the council's cabinet rejected the out-of-court settlement and the two sides will now return to court in October.

An action group of councillors and the mosque's leadership could be formed to look at sites other than that proposed off Hall Street. But the scheme was met with scepticism by DMA representatives who pledged to carry on the fight in the courts.

A small group gathered outside Dudley Council House ahead of the cabinet meeting to protest against the decision to reject the cash offer.

Dr Arbab Nazir, speaking on behalf of the DMA, said: "This was an historic opportunity to solve this issue once and for all.

"It was a key step which could have been taken to improve community and interfaith and race relations in Dudley.

"That opportunity has been missed out on. The mosque community did all it could to resolve this issue amicably. I do not think it could have done any more.

"We are fully resolved in taking this matter to the courts and to fight it there."

Council Leader Pete Lowe said he hoped the DMA would have a change of heart and work with councillors to find an alternative site.

Open

He said: "All we can say as a council is that from this moment our door is absolutely wide open for the establishment of an action group with representatives from all parties to exhaustively look at all the options for a replacement mosque and we can do no more than that."

The DMA's cash offer was previously considered over two days by a scrutiny panel made up of cross-party councillors in July. Its report to the council's cabinet acknowledged the need to replace the existing mosque in Castle Hill, but said the site in Hall Street was not suitable for the development.

As well as recommending the cabinet reject the offer, the scrutiny panel proposed the creation of the action group, made up of councillors from all parties and representatives of the mosque's leadership.

The council and the DMA will now meet in the High Court in October after the DMA previously appealed a decision which would allow the council to buy back the land.

Tributes as quad biker in fall dies

A MAN who suffered serious head injuries after falling from a quad bike died three days after the accident.

Ricky Hudson fell while riding along Quinton Road West, in Quinton, near Halesowen, last Tuesday, August 11.

The 41-year-old father of three sons, who is from the Quinton area, was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash at 6.50pm.

He was taken for treatment at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital but died from his injuries on Friday morning.

Mr Hudson's grieving family paid tribute to the 'devoted' father who had supported his wife through cancer treatment. His organ donations have given four people hope in their fight for life, they said.

The family is now calling for a change to the law asking for riders of quad bikes to be legally required to wear helmets.

Sgt Paul Hughes, from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, added: "This is a tragic event which has left a family devastated."

Anyone with information on the crash is asked to call police on 101.

Driver hurt as car rolls over in crash

A DRIVER was seriously injured after his car rolled several times in a crash in Oldbury – smashing through a sign and hitting a lamppost.

The car came to a rest on its side in Dudley Road East at around 11.25pm on Sunday.

Fire crews worked with paramedics to free the man, in his 20s from the vehicle.

He suffered a cut to his face, thigh wound, suspected broken ankle and suspected spinal injuries. Debris was scattered across the road.

Ten firefighters from Oldbury and Tipton stations using hydraulic cutting equipment to cut the man free from the wreckage.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Chris Kowalik said: "The driver was removed from the car with the use of a long spinal board before being transferred to a scoop stretcher.

"He had a bad cut to his face, a thigh wound, a suspected broken ankle and suspected spinal injuries.

"He was fully immobilised, given an anti-haemorrhage drug and was taken on blue lights to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham."

Bricks nicked from side of property

Gary Brookes, of New St, Quarry Bank, Dudley, who has had the bricks making the footpath running alongside his house stolen by thieves

Crazy paving theft

BRAZEN thieves have stolen more than 200 bricks from a footpath at a Quarry Bank home.

Homeowner Gary Brookes, aged 53, discovered the theft as he put out his bins.

The 'Brick Nicker' ripped up more than 200 historic bricks from the footpath at the side of his property, off New Street.

"The whole thing has been bizarre," he said. "It is the cheek of it really - I couldn't believe it."

Just fragments of some of the 200 bricks are left scattered with weeds and mud showing where the narrow pathway once was.

Mr Brookes beleives the bricks may have been stolen to order as they were manufactured by a firm with significant local heritage, Mobberley & Perry of Stourbridge.

He said: "The insurance guy thought the bricks had been stolen to order. He said they were expensive bricks and quite irreplaceable. Maybe someone took them to take them to one of these reclaim places. Maybe they had a nice little payout – I don't know."

The bricks were taken from Mr Brookes' home either overnight on July 31 or while he was at work the following day.

Just last month, a thief – named the Darlaston Brick Nicker – targeted a public footpath, stealing more than 50 blue Victorian bricks during three raids in as many months.

POLICE

Hand yourself in, hit-run driver told

SHOCKING CCTV footage shows the horrifying moment a pensioner was knocked down by a van and left for dead in the middle of a road.

John Rudge, aged 78, had just left the Spar shop in Bilston Street, Sedgley when he was struck by a white Renault Kangoo van.

A video from the store shows the driver and a male passenger waiting at the scene before speeding off down Queens Road. Bystanders rush to Mr Rudge's aid as he lies stricken in the street.

CCTV footage

West Midlands Police spokesman Billy Corrigan said Mr Rudge was now in a stable condition. He was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries on Thursday.

Cousin Janet Ash urged the two men in the van to hand themselves in to police.

The 71-year-old said: "He's got bruising all down his arms and legs, and a big swelling on his head and over his eye.

"The two young men who did this need to give themselves up and go the police, it is very serious what they have done.

"They should have stopped, they left my cousin for dead."

Anyone with information is urged to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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ROBBERY

Knifeman in petrol station cash haul

AN armed robber brandishing a knife made off with a haul of cash after forcing open the till at a petrol station.

The man, described as Asian and around 5ft 8in tall, wearing a zip up hoodie, walked into the Shell petrol station in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill just before 8.30pm last Thursday and pulled out a knife.

Staff saw him approaching and hid in a nearby room as he jumped the counter, forced the till open and stole cash.

Police have launched a CCTV appeal to try to track down a suspect.

Anyone with information is urged to call West Midlands Police on 101.

INSIDE:
A-LEVEL JOY FOR PUPILS

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Curtain up on theatre group's season

Members John Lucock, Mary O'Toole, Robert Gotch and Karen Whittingham

MEMBERS of Dudley Little Theatre are gearing up for their 69th annual season with a performance of Arthur Miller's classic drama All My Sons.

All My Sons is the story of a family living in post-Second World War United States, struggling to come to terms with deeds they may have committed during the conflict.

The play is being staged in Netherton Arts Centre from September 9 to 12.

Christine Ridgeway, press and publicity officer, said: "It is a powerful family drama and dealing with the aftermath of greed and guilt. It's good acting and there's some really good folks in it.

"It's got a very experienced director and it is real value for money and in the lovely old Victorian theatre with delightful facilities. There's all the trappings of going to the theatre for a very low cost."

Tickets are priced at £8 and £7 for concessions.

Book online at www.dudleylittleteatre.org or call Rebecca Clee on 01902 566077 or 07954424555.

As part of the new season, the theatre company will also be performing Treasure Island. The adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure by Phil Wilmott will be presented from December 2 to 5.

The programme continues in the new year with Bouncers and Cocktails by John Godber and Jane Thornton from March 9 to 12 and finishes with Boeing Boeing by Marc Camoletti from May 11 to 14.

The group is on the lookout for new members to act and help behind the scenes. Call Rebecca for more details.

Action demanded over hospital parking fees

POLITICIANS have called for Government intervention after it was revealed hospitals in the region charge up to six times more for an hour's parking than at their nearest public car parks.

Visitors have to fork out up to £2.60 for short stay parking at their local hospital – but are charged as little as 40p for a council car park.

Sandwell Hospital and Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital currently charge the most for an hour's parking at £2.60, while council car parks across Sandwell charge just 40p for an hour.

In Dudley, motorists can pay just 60p for an hour at a council car parks. Rates at Russells Hall Hospital were recently increased, with an hour's parking rising from £2 by another 60p.

Charges are slightly lower at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, where visitors pay £2.30 for an hour. City centre council-owned car parks charge as little as 60p for the same amount of time, though bosses at New Cross pointed out that their long-stay prices are cheaper than many city centre car parks.

Private

In Walsall, the Manor Hospital charges £2 for an hour. People parking on council car parks in the town must pay for up to two hours, which costs either £1 or £1.10.

Private car parking firm NCP allows motorists to park in Church Street, Wolverhampton, for an hour for just 50p.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he would call on the Government to take action, while Councillor Bill Etheridge, who famously quit his role as a hospital governor over the issue, branded the price hike 'utterly disgusting'.

He said the charges 'go against the principles' on which the NHS was founded.

The Royal Wolverhampton Trust, which runs New Cross, said tariffs were compared with other hospitals each year and that the 'charges reflect this comparison'.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said its rates were 'comparable to trusts in the local area' and offers weekly concessionary passes. The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, declined to comment.

Bobbies on a different beat for cash

PC Carl Mapp, left, with PCSOs Richard Plumb and Luke Albutt

THREE Dudley officers have completed a gruelling challenge to raise more than £1,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Pc Carl Mapp, Pcsos Luke Albutt and Richard Plumb decided to tackle the Lake District eight peaks challenge onAugust 8.

The Gornal and Sedgley neighbourhood officers have to patrol some of the hilliest areas across the force, which stood them in good stead for the 11-and-a-half hour trek. The trio said the challenge was physically and mentally exhausting as they walked across unforgiving terrain, picked their way over huge boulders and scrambled up slopes loose rocks, over a total of 16 miles.

Pcso Albutt described it as the "toughest but most rewarding experience", while Pc Mapp added: "I have never felt such pain before but loved every minute of it and have been inspired to do further challenges in the future.

"I was in awe at the views we had and the company was inspiring."

Pcso Plumb said the support from their sponsors, who helped them raise just over £1,000, spurred them on when their energy levels started to flag and he thanked everyone for helping them raise the cash for the charity close to their hearts.

Pcso Plumb added: "Sedgley Beacon is one of the highest points in the West Midlands so we're used to undulating journeys on foot or via pedal power."

Park enjoys £9k spend on benches and shelter

A £9,000 new youth shelter has been installed as part of improvements to a park near Stourbridge.

Car park resurfacing has also taken place and four new benches have also been installed at Swan Pool Park, off Studley Gate in Norton.

Alan Hopwood, chairman of the Friends of Swan Pool Park, said: "We had a check of what people wanted and we have had a new youth shelter put up.

"We have had funding from various things and put our own money in.

"The shelter is a place where people can sit with a little bit of shelter – it's a bench with a hood on the top.

"We have also got four new benches on preferred sites which we asked members of the public to choose.

"We have had other things done around the park, we have had the car parks resurfaced over the year and a couple of years ago we had a new play area."

Mr Hopwood praised the efforts of the group and said a lot of hard work had gone into securing the new features.

He said as well as the group putting up some of the cost towards the new youth shelter, funding had also come from the Mary Stevens Trust.

The group will hold its AGM on Saturday, August 22 and Mr Hopwood added all are welcome.

People can also find out more about being part of the park group's committee. It will be held at Alderman Tye Scouts Club on South Road, Stourbridge at 10.30am.

Apartments bid at pub withdrawn

A PROPOSAL to transform a derelict pub appears to have fallen through after plans to convert it into five apartments were withdrawn.

Dudley Estates Ltd had submitted plans to takeover the New Hop and Barleycorn in Mason Street.

The firm had requested a change of use for the building to allow it to be converted into living space.

A design and access statement that was submitted with the plans said the change would enhance the building which has been targeted by vandals since closing two years ago.

However, the plans have now been withdrawn before they were due to come before Dudley Council.

Assault victim has cheekbone broken

A MAN sustained a fractured cheekbone following an assault in Coopers Lane, Stourport.

The victim is believed to have had a disagreement with the suspect, a 36-year-old man, in a nearby pub prior to the attack between 3.30pm and 3.40pm on Monday, August 10.

Call 101 with information.

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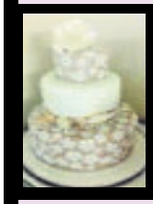

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Cheekbone broken by husband in row at pub

A MAN fractured his wife's cheekbone after hitting and pushing her to the ground during a pub row.

Lee Prescott lashed out at his wife Jemma after the argument broke out at The Lawnswood pub, Wordsley, during the early hours of March 2.

Prescott, 48, of Hill Morton Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, was seen to strike her in the face before pushing her to the ground.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard she had fallen to the ground following the push and hit her head.

Mr Patrick Sullivan, prosecuting, said: "She remonstrated with her husband before leaving the pub.

"She was seen by a passer-by, who knew her, and saw that she was in distress."

Mr Sullivan said Mrs Prescott had suffered brushing over her left eye, blood in the same eye and a minimally displaced cheekbone fracture. She was treated at Russell's Hall Hospital and has since made a full recovery.

Prescott pleaded guilty to a charge of grievous bodily harm and, at the crown court last week, he was given a 10-month prison sentence suspended for two years and ordered to pay his wife £500 compensation.

Prescott also has to pay the prosecution costs of £320 and a £100 victim surcharge.

The court was told Mrs Prescott had not pursued a prosecution and it looked like they would reconcile.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said his client was 'remorseful and thoroughly ashamed' of his actions.

Business rates scam warning

TRADERS are being warned over a business rates scam after a Dudley firm fell victim.

In exchange for a fee of more than £1,000, the company was led to believe it would have its business rates reduced on appeal. Instead the bogus service merely lodged the necessary paperwork with the valuation office – something which can be done for free.

Dudley Council said the fees paid could outweigh any benefit gained and rates may also be increased.

The bogus firms particularly target small businesses which are advised to ask anyone offering the service for contact details of past clients.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "Our advice is to say no to firms who cold call offering a rating appeal service."

Lookalike cruises along to movie

A TOM Cruise lookalike will appear at a screening of Top Gun at intu Merry Hill tomorrow night.

The drive-in movie at the Brierley Hill complex starts at 9.30pm. Ticket sale proceeds go to Promise Dreams.

Fizzogs on the Fringe of stardom

Dancing grannies fly the flag

DANCING grannies the Fizzogs have taken the Edinburgh Fringe Festival by storm with a series of acclaimed performances.

Audiences flocked to The Space venue to watch the Dudley comedy group stage a 45-minute extract from their Fifty Shades of Fizzog show.

Members also performed their routine, which has become an internet sensation, on the streets of the Scottish capital and proudly flew the Black Country flag. All their shows were near sell-outs and have been received with standing ovations.

As a result, Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and James Collins gained an army of new fans.

Stephanie Bowers, from Cumbria, said: "They are so clever. Their humour is mischievous but in a way they remind you of the things you want to forget about yourself."

Mary Bevan, from South Wales, added: "The Fizzogs were recommended to us by some friends in Wolverhampton and we were not disappointed."

Reviews have also been strong with the website Chortle saying the performance was a highlight. Fringe website Broadway Baby said: "This year's breakthrough sketch show is not just another bunch of students. This year it is the turn of the Fizzogs."

They perform the full version of "Fifty Shades of Fizzog" at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 3.

We did it! Students make A-level grades

THERE were jubilant scenes across Dudley as students celebrated A-level success.

Two years of hard work paid off, with a number of schools and colleges recording their best ever results.

The overall pass rate across the West Midlands rose by 0.3 per cent this year to 98.1 per cent.

Ellowes Hall Sports College in Lower Gornal posted record breaking results, with students recording the school's highest ever average points score and more than 50 per cent of entries at A2 or equivalent being awarded grades A* or A.

Headteacher Alan Jasper said: "We wish to congratulate all our sixth form students on their outstanding results this summer."

At Dudley College the pass rate increased for the third year in a row, while at Bishop Milner Catholic College, 48 per cent of results were at A*-B grades and 75 per cent came in at A*-C, while the ACE Academy in Tipton saw a 100 per cent A-Level pass rate.

Elsewhere, Barr Beacon School is celebrating the school's best ever results with so many A*s that Executive Headteacher Dame Maureen Brennan has described them as 'stellar'.

Quarter

It was a similar story at George Salter Academy in West Bromwich, with 78 per cent of students achieving three or more A*-C grades .

Sandwell College's Central Sixth students secured a 100 per cent pass rate in 20 different subjects, and a 99 per cent pass rate overall. Dudley Sixth Form saw an improvement on last year's results with a 98.3 per cent pass rate. Principal Lowell Williams said: "It's a good news story all round for our A-level students."

Halesowen College celebrated a 99 per cent pass rate at A-level.

At Wolverhampton Grammar School, a quarter of students got a clean sheet of A* and A grades, while 72 per cent of all A level passes were at grades A-B. At The Royal School Wolverhampton, one in five A-levels were graded at either A or A*, while half of all maths results were A-B.

St Edmund's Catholic Academy in Wolverhampton saw 100 per cent of students achieve A-levels and 20 per cent of the grades achieved were at A* or A.

At Tettenhall College more than half of all students gained A*-C grades, while a quarter of pupils achieved the top A* or A grades. The overall pass rate was 92 per cent

Wolverhampton Girls' High School saw 49 per cent awarded either A* or A, while 41 girls achieved three or more A* or A grades.

Students celebrate their A-level results at Ace Academy in Tipton

Codey Hayfield with her top results

Getting their results are Lucy Edwards and Joely Wade

Record number off to universities

A RECORD number of students are heading to university this year despite a narrow drop in the number of top A-level grades nationwide, official figures show.

The number of boys and girls awarded the coveted A* and A grades dipped to 25.9 per cent, down 0.1 per cent on last year. But the overall pass rate has risen to 98.1 per cent. University admissions service Ucas said 409,410 people had already been accepted on to higher education courses in the UK, up three per cent on last year.

Official figures also suggest that students have tried to increase their chances of gaining entry to top universities by taking more traditional subjects such as maths, science, modern languages and English literature. Schools minister Nick Gibb claimed the rise in students taking facilitating subjects is 'clear proof' that the Government's introduction of the English Baccalaureate performance measure at GCSE has encouraged more people to continue studying core academic subjects.

The EBacc recognises students who achieve at least a C at GCSE in English, maths, two sciences, history or geography and a language.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drivers clocked over speed limit

DRIVERS have been clocked speeding along a road in Wordsley.

In just an hour, 11 drivers were caught breaking the 30mph limit along Rangeways Road near High Acres pub. The highest speed was 44mph. Members of the speed watch group clocked the drivers between 7-8pm.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley said: "I am determined with Wordsley Speed Watch we will make a difference for the safety of all in Wordsley."

To work with Wordsley Speed Watch, call 07771 977746.

Robbery attempt on boy aged 16

A 16-YEAR-old boy was attacked by two men attempting to steal his phone just metres from a popular marina.

The men, both aged between 17 and 19, approached the boy from behind as he walked in Lodge Road near Stourport basin at around 1am on August 16. They demanded his phone, but the boy managed to get away.

The first man was white, around 5ft 7in tall and wore a black hooded top and dark tracksuit bottoms. The second man was also white, around 5ft 9in tall and was wearing a dark hooded top and dark jogging bottoms.

Spooky puppet is a Youtube hit

A SPOOKY puppet has been filmed apparently moving in a cabinet – and has become an internet hit.

The creepy marionette been captured on film moving inside a sealed cabinet in the dead of night, attracting more than 14,000 hits on YouTube.

Paranormal investigator Jayne Harris, 32, of Stourbridge, stored it inside a glass container and recorded it every night for three months before her cameras caught the wooden doll appearing to come to life.

Man squirted with 'harmful' substance

A MAN was left with sore eyes and runny nose after a potentially harmful liquid was squirted through a letterbox of a home in Tipton.

Residents living in flats in High Street, Princes End, were told to keep windows and doors closed following the incident last Thursday just after 10.30am.

Police said the victim quickly recovered and did not need to go to hospital. The scene was later declared safe. Witnesses are asked to call 101.

Lupus support drop-in

DETAILS of the latest meeting of the West Midlands Lupus Group have been announced. The group are hosting a drop-in session at Russells Hall Hospital, in Dudley, tonight (Thursday). It takes place in room 12 in the Clinical Education Centre, by Action Heart, from 2-4pm.

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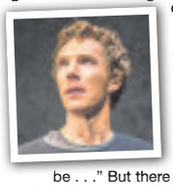
THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IN the United States (where else?) lawyers acting for comedians and comedy writers are threatening to claim damages against people who nick jokes from Twitter and other sources and then recycle them as their own. But is there any such thing as a genuinely original joke? According to showbiz legend there are only seven basic jokes; all the others are merely variations. (To which the tried, trusted and essentially British response is: I'm expecting a number two today).

MEANWHILE, as the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe is under way, and dozens of new comedians have nightmares about how their audiences may or may no react, they should take comfort and remember that being a comedian is the easiest of all jobs because, if it goes horribly wrong, at least no-one will laugh at you.

THE death is announced, at the age of 101, of Frances Kelsey. Her claim to fame is that in 1960, working for the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), she was asked to review an application from a US company to make under licence a sedative invented in Germany. Kelsey was not convinced it was safe. The company put pressure on FDA officials who in turn put Kelsey under pressure. She would not give in, even when the company threatened to sue the FDA for libel. And then, as she had feared, reports began coming from Europe of children born with terrible defects. The new drug was called Thalidomide and Frances Kelsey was the woman who saved America from the agony and anguish which this drug created in the rest of the world.



ALL eyes are on Benedict Cumberbatch playing Hamlet at the Barbican in London. The play's most famous line is "To be or not to be . . ." But there is another great line. Polonius says: "This above all: to thine own self be true." The line has been discussed for 400 years and is usually presented as a trite or meaningless tip from a bit of an old duffer. And yet it contains a gem of truth. If you believe something to be wrong, don't let anyone browbeat you into thinking it's right. Frances Kelsey was true to herself, and millions of Americans bless her name.

ANYBODY else puzzled by the use of the term "bail out" to describe the EU supporting the Greek economy? You bail out when a boat is sinking; the aim to remove as much water as possible. In the Greek crisis, the EU is trying to pour as much money as necessary into the Greek treasury. It's not so much a bail-out as a bail-in.

TAUTOLOGY corner. I referred recently to "generations who could do mental arithmetic in their head." As a number of you have pointed out, where else would they do it?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bus drivers caused delays to gain fares

A BUS firm has been stripped of all but one of its services after drivers were caught delaying other buses.

Drivers for GRS Travel were found to be intentionally causing delays so they could pick up extra customers.

A hearing of the Traffic Commissioner for Wales and the West Midlands heard how GRS Travel buses moved considerably slower than surrounding traffic, causing queues to form behind. Traffic Commissioner Nick Jones called the practice 'predatory and potentially dangerous'.

He said: "I use the word 'dangerous' as a bus deliberately driving too slow for the prevailing traffic causing queues will lead to temptations by other road users to overtake and/or drive in a manner that potentially causes danger. The selfish behaviour of drivers deliberately travelling slowly was an obvious potential hazard."

The firm is owned by Gurdaver Ram and is based at Dudley Road East in Tividale.

Mr Ram, who had been subject to a previous inquiry and sanctioned in January 2014, was handed a £2,200 fine and told he can not run more than one service until August 2017. He was unavailable for comment.

A GRS Travel bus *Picture: Mark Cufflin*

Fewer stray dogs are collared on streets

Rob Cox

FEWER dogs are being picked up on the streets of Dudley and more of those rescued are being returned to their owners, following campaigns by officers.

From April to June this year, the council's stray dog collection service picked up 57 animals compared to 99 in the same period the previous year.

Of the 57 strays, 32 were claimed by their owners, with only 26 of those found being microchipped. The previous year 45 of the 99 strays were claimed by owners.

The snapshot reflects what has been a general drop in the number of strays across the borough since 2012.

In 2014-15, 355 dogs were collected compared to 522 the previous year and 562 in 2012-13.

Councillor Rachel Harris, said: "It is great to see such a drop in the number of stray dogs across Dudley. We have regular sessions to promote responsible dog ownership which is having a big impact.

"Owners have a responsibility to ensure their dogs are well looked after and do not cause a nuisance to the public and other pet owners. Dogs must wear a collar and identity disc with name, address and telephone number so that they can be reunited with their owner if lost."

Found dogs are taken to a kennels in Stoke. If they are not claimed within seven days they are put up for rehoming.

From next April there will be a legal requirement that all dogs must be micro chipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are eight weeks old.

The council stages regular events in partnership with the RSPCA and Dog's Trust where owners can bring along their pet to be microchipped for free while they wait.

The council suggest responsible dog owners should make sure their dog is under control and on a lead and walked every day so they have the chance to meet other dogs.

Protesters in call for junction to open

Councillor Elaine Costigan, in the orange top, leads a protest on Junction 9 of the M6 to get it reopened

FRUSTRATED residents holding banners and signs staged a protest on Sunday, calling for an M6 slip road in the Black Country to be reopened.

Junction 9 for Wednesbury has been closed since January and drivers have become increasingly frustrated the road remains shut as no work is actually being done on it. It had been due to re-open in June but the closure was recently extended until November.

A dozen people were at the protest, calling for the road to reopen and receiving beeps of support from passing drivers.

They actually stood on the closed slip road which usually takes drivers onto the southbound side of the motorway.

Last month, Highways England revealed the slip road is being kept shut because of work it is doing elsewhere, amid fears it would add to congestion on the link road to the M5 if it was open. It leaves drivers in the Black Country forced to take long detours to get onto the M6 further down, even if they have no intention of joining the M5.

As well as adding extra time to people's trips to work, protesters are concerned the traffic gridlock will lead to safety issues when schools start back in two weeks, with 2,000 pupils crossing the roads each day.

They are calling for the road to re-open immediately or for Highways England to consider opening the road during peak times to ease traffic issues. An online petition has been signed by almost 1,000 people so far.

Sandwell Councillor Elaine Costigan was at the protest and said: "The people here today are really people who support safety and want to try and stop congestion.

"We would like an urgent update from the highways agency and a date when it will re-open."

Club with 'dark' past may have new future

A FORMER snooker club with a 'dark history' that closed after a string of concerns including violence and alleged drug-taking could reopen to host boxing and wrestling.

The On Cue Snooker Club, in Cradley Heath, had its licence taken away after concerns had been raised about the venue almost two years ago.

Sandwell Council's licensing panel members claimed the venue has been open out of hours and 'run in a manner that promoted violence and disorder'.

Now the Halesowen Road venue will be run by a new operator and called Georges Snooker and Sports Bar, under proposals put forward to the council.

Residents and ward councillors have met with the prospective operators to raise concerns they had about the venue previously.

Reassured

These included fights and people taking drugs at the premises.

Ward councillor Julie Webb attended the meeting and said they were reassured after speaking to the new operators. "This building has a dark history," she said. "There were fights and people come out having taken drugs," she claimed.

"There will be CCTV at the club. They will be vetting the people coming in. I was quite reassured." The premises is situated on the first floor above a number of shops including a fish and chip and convenience store.

Barclays to shut down premises

BARCLAYS has announced it will close its Old Hill branch later this year. The bank in Halesowen Road will shut in November.

Barclays has already revealed plans to close sites in Lower Gornal and Hagley, sparking widespread opposition. Bosses said they had taken the decision due to a fall in customers and the fact there are other branches nearby.

Barclays Community leader Raj Dhaliwal said: "The way customers undertake their banking is changing as people increasingly use online, telephone and mobile devices. We must therefore evolve the shape and size of our branch network.

"At the Old Hill branch, customer usage has declined by seven per cent in the last year alone."

Record fair returns to hotel in town

A RECORD fair is returning to Stourbridge this month. The Talbot Hotel, in High Street, is hosting the event on August 29. Specialist rock, new Indie and Northern Soul traders will be at the event. Email teamwhippet@yahoo.com for details.

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Borough to celebrate monarch's long reign

THE Mayor of Dudley has invited a select group of borough residents to a special afternoon tea, to mark the Queen's record-breaking reign.

Queen Elizabeth II becomes Britain's longest serving monarch on September 6.

To tie in with the achievement, Dudley Council has planned a number of activities, including a book for well-wishers to sign which will be passed on to the Royal Family.

This will start off at the council house where people will be able to sign it, before moving around to key points in the borough. It will be available until October 12.

People born in 1952, the year the Queen took to the throne, are being invited to contact the council to be entered into a draw for the special afternoon tea with the Mayor and be one of the first people to sign the book.

The civic reception takes place on September 9 from 3pm.

Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, said: "This is a great occasion for us to mark and I hope people will be able to join me for afternoon tea and the signing of this historic book.

"It will be great to have people born in that year come along and mark this very special day."

The Queen visited the borough in April 1957.

A second book is being placed at Top Church, Dudley.

People who want to be entered into the draw for tickets to the reception can call 01384 815211 or email christine.skelding@Dudley.gov.uk

Concerns over council data leaks

SENSITIVE personal information has been stolen or leaked in more than 300 data breaches by council's in the Black Country and South Staffordshire over three years, new figures claim.

Sandwell Council has the second worst record in the country when it comes to confidential data breaches, with 187 instances recorded between 2011 and 2014. Wolverhampton council also featured in the top 10, with 100 breaches.

Dudley Council saw six cases over the period, three of which resulted in disciplinary measures.

In the UK there were 4,236 data breaches over the period. Privacy campaigners say this shows councils are failing to protect information.

Library to shut for essential works

LYE Library will be closed for two weeks from September 14 for essential repair works.

Ceiling plaster work will be completed and carpet replaced. Users can return and renew items at set times.

Volunteers breathe life into Civic Hall

Brierley Hill Civic Hall is a popular venue

BOOKINGS at Brierley Hill Civic Hall has soared since a community group took over the reins six month ago.

The venue has been used by theatre and dance groups and has hosted fashion shows and weddings.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) took over the day-to-day running of the building from Dudley Council in February.

Andy Gray, chief officer of CVS, said: "The first six months have been focussed on re-engaging with Brierley Hill people, councillors, traders and charities who like us all want their Civic Hall to flourish.

"We've had great support from Dudley Council who've been open to new ideas for activities that could happen there and how we could make the Civic Hall more appealing.

Ideas

"Our open event in March attracted current users and 60 potential new users, who all shared their ideas for how together we can make the Civic a vibrant home to all sorts of activity, entertainment and businesses."

New catering facilities including a coffee shop and Mr Gray spoke of how he wants to involve local businesses with the Bank Street building.

He added: "We've been in talks with Enville and Holden's breweries, BMET College, Brierley Hill Civic Society, radio stations, promoters and local traders and we've got some exciting plans in the pipeline.

"We're working with Enville Brewery in particular to run 'Bostin' Tay Party'. This will be a festival of fun, food and ale, on September 25 to 26."

Man stole £163,000 for gambling debts

A GAMBLING addict who stole £163,000 from his employers to pay off debts has been locked up for more than two years.

Daniel Weaver used his role as a purchase ledger clerk for ATE Group, at Wolverhampton's Boundary Industrial Estate, to direct fake invoices worth £163,676.85 into his bank account between November 2012 and June 2015, a court was told.

When it became clear the company had rumbled Weaver, aged 26, he fled to London, where he was eventually found in a casino.

Weaver's persistent thefts, used to pay off gambling debts, had a 'significant impact' on business at ATE Group and if his activities had been discovered any later, bosses would have had to consider making other members of staff redundant, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Prosecuting, Mr David Iles said: "The amount was stolen over a period of some time. To his credit, he helped police track down where the money had gone as soon as he had been caught."

Weaver, from Cott Lane, Kingswinford, who pleaded guilty to theft, had no previous convictions and the court heard that until he started to take the money, he had built a reputation as a trusted worker.

However, when his gambling debts piled up, he had used the money stolen to try and recoup his losses through more betting.

He was handed a 26-month prison sentence, of which he must serve half before being released on license. His behaviour had affected the company to the point that it posted a £9,000 loss in 2014, the same year Weaver stole £60,523.

Defending, Mr Oliver Woodhouse, said the scale of what Weaver had been doing came as a shock to those who knew him.

He said: "The defendant started gambling at age 19, placing football accumulators on the weekend. He always had a bit of spare cash because he lived with his parents and could afford to place these bets.

"He believes the turning point for him came when he placed a £5 bet that came in, winning him £3,500. From there, he started to chase that feeling of winning big and of course it never happened for him"

Recorder Dean Kershaw said he had no choice but to send him to prison for 26 months.

Black Country quilt goes on show

Viv Webb of Dudley Adult and Community Learning Services and Artspace secretary Pat Cobern admire the quilt

A COMMUNITY quilt celebrating the heritage and culture of the Black Country has been created and is now on display in Dudley.

The quilt was an eight-week project by adult learners at Artspace in Dudley and features the Dudley coat of arms as well as a crown, flowers, chains, flames and the slogan 'unity and progress'.

It is currently on display at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre on Tipton Road.

Pat Cobern, Artspace secretary, said: "We were thinking that with the Black Country Day being so popular, it would be a nice idea for us to get together for a couple of hours a week to produce a community quilt that celebrates our heritage.

"It turned into a real social event with people coming together to sew, chat and make friends. Everybody really enjoyed doing it."

The project was funded by Cadbury's in Birmingham, who gave Artspace £500.

Learners spent their Saturdays stitching and sewing the different segments of the quilt. It was finally pieced together by Artspace artist Elena Thomas.

The quilt will be on show in the archives centre until September, before travelling to Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Borough sees a rise in claimants

DUDLEY Borough saw one of the biggest rises in people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the West Midlands last month.

Claimant numbers were up 359 to 5,170 in the borough in July, but the Department of Work and Pensions says it was a 'blip' as the trend is for a fall in both unemployment and claimants.

Since January borough claimants are down 1,799 or 26 per cent.

Wyre Forest, including Kidderminster, saw claimant numbers up 29 to 735 and South Staffs up two at 741.

Floodlights to be installed at school

SIX floodlights will be installed at a school in Kingswinford, despite dozens of objections from residents.

The 8m high lights will flank sports pitches at The Crestwood School, Bromley Lane.

A petition opposing the plan was signed by 51 neighbours to the school.

Proposals were unanimously passed by councillors on Dudley Council's development control committee recently.

The lights can be used until 9pm from Monday to Friday and until 6pm on Saturday, with no usage allowed on Sundays.

Support group to help carers

A NEW support group is being set up for people in Dudley who care for someone living with an eating disorder. The emphasis will be for carers to exchange ideas, share experiences and give mutual support.

Initially, people are invited to make contact and receive more information.

Carers in the neighbouring Black Country areas will also be welcome if they cannot access any support groups local to them. To find out more email carers.ed@gmail.com

Increase in car thefts sees patrols on rise

AN increase in the number of thefts of cars and vehicles has prompted a police response. Extra patrols have been introduced around Quarry Bank and Netherton following the thefts.

Officers from the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood neighbourhood team say there has been a rise but will not give a figure. Sgt Liz Benson said: "My officers will be targeting the areas where these thefts have taken place and offering crime prevention advice along with plain clothed operations."

Charity's new manager

A NEW manager has been appointed for Dudley-based White House Cancer Support. Mother-of-two Caroline Webb took up post with the charity, in Ednam Road, this month. Mrs Webb served in the Women's Royal Naval Service and since 2000 worked for Dudley Council for Voluntary Service.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Another fine name with Stan and Olly

WHO would have thought it? Far from being the bumbling, slapstick figures of fun portrayed in their films, they were also trendsetters, way ahead of their time. According to the Office of National Statistics, Oliver and Stanley are among the most popular names for boys today, with Elsie and Ivy making a comeback for girls. Now I knew Oliver had been popular for a while, but I thought the others had died out long ago.

Seth, popularised by the old rogue in Emmerdale Farm, also makes the top 100, as does Finlay, the doctor with the rather large casebook. And who, a few years ago, would have thought Austin, Albert and Frederick would be the monikers of choice for trendy parents?

Strangest of all, though, is that the biggest gainers are Ellis and Jackson, which make the top 100 for the first time in history. Look, I'm know I'm not terribly well up in these things, but aren't they supposed to be surnames?

■ ■ ■ ■

NOBODY goes to hospital if they can avoid it. As fun destinations go, the average hospital ward ranks some way below Blackpool during the stag party season and the dole office on a Monday morning.

People have to visit hospitals either because they are unwell themselves, or to visit sick loved ones. Yet despite this, or maybe because of it, hospitals in the Black Country are charging visitors up to £2.60 an hour to use their car parks.

Imagine you have a seriously ill relative, and spend three-to-four hours a day visiting them. Isn't that traumatic enough, without paying more than £50 a week for the privilege? And then, of course, you will be charged for an extra hour because of the absurd queue at the paypoint when visiting time finishes. This is exactly what a man queuing at the pay station told me he was having to do while his wife was in hospital.

It is outrageous enough that councils charge shoppers to use the car parks we already own, but at least we can take our custom elsewhere. Hospitals, though, have a captive market, and they know it.

■ ■ ■ ■

STAYING on the subject, Dudley town centre traders have hit out at the £6.5 million revamp of the market place, saying the money would have been better spend providing car parking. And in matters completely unconnected, Rex Johnson the jeweller is leaving town after more than 40 years.

Meanwhile in Wolverhampton, E Marsh furniture store has moved out of the city centre after more than a century because of the pedestrianisation frenzy gripping the city. Still what do they know? They're only traders, and they haven't yet bought into the local government vision of vast hordes flocking to our shop-free towns to admire the block paving.

Family members Clarence Taylor the first son to be born, Kenneth Taylor, son-in-law Ray Green and John Taylor

Nadeen Taylor and Jayelle, eight months, Kayla Lomas and Jasmine, eight months, Duwane Taylor and Israel, eight months, Marlone Taylor and Lucas, eight months, Stefan McFarquhar and Zayah, five months and Micel Barrett with Kenzo, eight months

Cynthia sits at head of a family of 153

BURCHELL and Cynthia Taylor have certainly made their mark on the world, writes DEBORAH HARDIMAN.

Together, they have created a family of 153 members – 13 children, 65 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great grandchildren.

Cynthia Taylor

Burchell Taylor

But that is not their only legacy. They are legendary in Wolverhampton for helping families from Jamaica settle in the city, find new homes and thrive.

The couple were known for providing housing for new arrivals at a time when many landlords put up signs saying No blacks, No dogs, No Irish.

They met and married in Jamaica before Burchell followed his dream of a better life and moved here in 1954.

He found digs in a house in St John Street, belonging to the Mander Centre owners who tasked him with finding more tenants. But he soon became a landlord in his own right. He also sent for Cynthia, who he had left back home with their seven eldest children. She arrived in 1955 with the youngsters and they went on to have six more.

All together, the couple had Clarence, now 74, Kenneth, 72, Madge, 70, Claudette, 68, Gloria, 65, John, 64, Adrian, 62, Joy, 59, Clive, 58, Carlton, 56, and twins Byron and Dennis, 52. Another son, Glen died in infancy.

The Taylors also branched out to set up the haulage business, BL Taylor and Sons and the Caribbean Express coach firm that ran trips to places such as Blackpool and Skegness.

The businesses were in Upper Villiers Street, Blakenhall, where they were also the landlords of six houses. They had a home in Himley Road, Dudley, which Sir Lenny Henry's parents once rented. Mr Taylor died in 2006 aged 86 in Florida, where he was setting up another property venture.

Cynthia Taylor at the front of this family get-together in Hickman Park

Mrs Taylor, who is now 94, was honoured by her huge family at a gathering at Bilston's Hickman Park. More than 100 relatives attended, with some meeting their cousins, aunts and uncles for the first time.

Across the five generations, the family has at least six nurses, three solicitors, along with builders, electricians, musicians, writers, actors and businessmen and women.

In addition to raising her children, Mrs Taylor, now of Greenly, Road, Parkfields, held down jobs as a care home cook and also as a lock worker at Yale in Willenhall.

She said: "It is lovely to see all of my children and some of my grandchildren together in the same place at the same time. I'm having a good time."

Byron, a solicitor, of Penshore Close, Pendeford, added: "Dad ran his businesses from our home. Life was hectic and challenging, as can be expected with a large family to look after.

"He ran the Caribbean Express, which was a 52-seater coach, until the 1980s. He was also a sub contractor for other coach firms such as Don Everall. He also bought property in Florida. He was very enterprising."

Son Kenneth, a retired mechanic, who now lives in London, added: "I came over in 1961 and I used to go around with dad doing building work. He was a jack of all trades and a hard worker.

"He had some tipper lorries and I used to drive one of them. He had contracts with companies like McAlpine and we used to deliver materials used for building the M6 motorway."

Son Clarence, a father of 10, of Fowler Street, Blakenhall, said they were a loving family that held traditional values. "My mum and dad were very loving parents," he said. "They taught us the meaning of love and respect. Mom is a practising Christian and goes to the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Oxford Street."

The celebration saw the Taylors take part in a photoshoot in the park followed by a meal at Wolverhampton Sickle Cell Care, where daughter Claudette is the centre director.

Granddaughter Annobelle Taylor, 23, an administrator, of Clark Road, Compton, says: "There are no words to describe today. It's just been amazing to meet up with everyone. Granny is also here. Days like this are brilliant."

Celebration organiser, son Dennis, of Goldthorn Crescent, Goldthorn Park, concluded: "Our family has come a long waysince the early days here."

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Time to let go of the Hippodrome dream

I AM becoming increasingly irritated by letters talking about re-opening the Dudley Hippodrome.

G Oakley is the latest to air his views. Not surprisingly, not a whisper from him as to who should foot the bill to renovate it. It appears that maybe private investors or an entrepreneurs are pretty thin on the ground.

It is an awful looking building, and shoddy, and its design is something rather like a young child would draw. If it had any architectural merit it would have now been designated as a listed building. Variety theatres are dead, and that is what it was in its heyday. Forget espousing that Laurel and Hardy appeared, the core entertainers there, apart from the odd one or two well-known radio entertainers, most acts were simply what I would term as circuit acts, travelling to a different venue each week similar to that of travelling circuses which would appear at around the same time each year.

Practically every town in the country had a similar theatre to that of the Hippodrome in those days, and they all pretty well much relied on the public in their catchment area for revenue, I should imagine that most have gone the same way as the 'Hippo'.

Today the media and personal IT caters for every type of entertainment requirement and large venues abound should you prefer live entertainment. It has changed theatre and cinema attendances out of all recognition and I would go so far as to say many people would now rather watch a gig or a stand-up-comic in their local pub or pound the pavements at the Edinburgh festival in preference to theatre going.

J B WALDRON
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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EMAIL
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Spain drain on forces' resources

SO, we now have fewer police officers on the street, thousands of PCSOs are to go. Police are not attending burglaries, and to cover for the lack of officers there has been an increase in overtime payments and police stations closed.

Now a chief officer is telling us to e-mail evidence to the police so that they do not have to attend.

However what they are doing is sending West Midlands Police officers to Spain and patrol in full uniform alongside the local police.

This we are told is to assist with British victims, witnesses and offenders and to help them with respecting local laws and customs.

I think someone should wake up and smell the coffee. I have news for this government; we can't get our own locals to respect local laws and customs! So I don't believe a two week jolly to Spain will make not one jot of difference.

P LOWE
Brierley Hill

A-bombs dropped needlessly for war

LET'S not forget it was the Europeans that started WW2 and not the Japanese people.

Seventy years ago an American B-29 bomber dropped 'little boy' – the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, though less than 10 feet long and less than 10,000 pounds in weight in less than one minute 80,000 people instantly died and another 70,000 hideously injured and despite the sheer horror of what they had done, the Americans still dropped a second atomic bomb called 'Fat Boy' on Nagasaki only three days later killing another 70,000 people.

The Americans had already mass conventionally bombed the people of Tokyo and other parts of Japan and invented napalm, even though the European countries that caused the war in the first place had stopped fighting each other leaving an estimated 1,400,000 people dead and thousands of other generations suffering the physical effects of A-bomb radiation for a war that ended before they were even born. The only unanswered question is, if the Japanese had not surrendered to the apocalypse and devastation of the first two A-bombs, how many more A-bombs were the Americans prepared to drop on the Japanese people?

G E FANTHOM
Swindon

Recalling aunty who ran Swans

WITH regards to your article 'Town's History', which featured on Monday August 10, and referred to the bomb explosion in 1940 opposite 'Top Church', it was my auntie who kept the pub which was mentioned – The Three Swans.

I wrote to Carl Chinn to ask if he could find anything about it.

His reply was he couldn't find any record of it, but my letter was printed in the Express & Star.

I was just nine years old when this happened.

Also I would like to say that in August 1915 my grandfather was killed in Turkey during fighting in the Great War.

His name – Joseph Coates – is carved in stone under the clock tower in the council building in Dudley.

I used to go and visit, but now gates are locked.

He received a commendation from Buckingham Palace.

M JONES
Dudley

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Welcome Guest for housing scheme

Dudley Guest Hospital – some buildings will be retained as part of housing development

MORE than 150 homes will be built on the site of a former hospital in Dudley, after plans were given the green light.

Proposals for the old Guest Hospital site in Tipton Road were unanimously approved at a meeting of Dudley Council's development control committee.

A massive noise-reducing 'bund', or embankment, covering one-fifth of the site will be constructed to block noise from the neighbouring Thomas Dudley Ltd Foundry.

Two historic buildings from the old hospital — the administration block and the porter's lodge — will be retained and converted into homes as part of the plan. The remainder will be demolished to make way for houses and flats.

Plans have been in the pipeline for almost four years with negotiations between developers Wates Living Space and Dudley Council over the number of homes.

The council's public protection manager Tim Glews said: "It's been a long, hard battle to get to this stage."

Concerns were raised by Thomas Dudley that future residents could complain about noise, resulting in the bund to reduce the noise.

There are 400 people employed at the foundry, which has been operating for nearly a century.

Councillor Colin Elcock said: "We need to do everything in our power to protect this factory as it provides hundreds of jobs in this area."

He praised the plans, adding: "The site is very well set out, it's been beautifully planned.

"They're also looking after the old site, which is good as Guest Hospital is a really iconic site."

The Victorian hospital closed more than a decade ago after most departments moved to Russells Hall Hospital.

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Enjoyable occasion at Vesuvio

Kingswinford TWG

KINGSWINFORD Townswomen's guild met on August 10 in the community centre following apologies for absence, a quick resume was given on the progress of sick members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed. The treasurer gave her report and reminded members of the benefits to the guild of Gift Aid.

Joyce Robins read the federation report. It was agreed by all who had attended the Annual Lunch at Vesuvio that it was a very enjoyable occasion. Members were told that the 11 tickets for the Federation Harvest Luncheon were paid for, but if anyone else wished to attend it is possible that there are still places available.

New guild is formed

WEST Midlands Federation of Townswomen has successfully formed a new guild which will be known as Gornal Wood Morning Guild.

The first meeting is at the Darby and Joan Club in Gornal which is next to the Library. This meeting will be on September 16 commencing at 10am. Further meetings will continue on the third Wednesday of the following months.

A number of ladies have already shown a lot of interest and would like to invite any other interested ladies to come along and join them at the first meeting.

Everyone's a winner in pairs competition

Pairs winners Gordon Grosvenor and Anthony Lane with their trophies

Sedgley Bridge Club

THE winners of this years Sedgley Bridge Club Pairs Cup competition Gordon Grosvenor and Anthony Lane are pictured with their trophies.

The friendly competition was played on Thursday, August 6, at Sedgley & District Community Association and invites any member of the S&DCA.

This year saw players from both of the other bridge groups who meet at the Community Centre taking part. It ended with all competitors as winners as a cream tea was had by all thanks to William's Coffee House Sedgley. New members and guest are always welcome to Wednesday Group for Rubber Bridge sessions, Friday Group that teach the basics of the game and help to teach enough to play social bridge and the Thursday Group for duplicate, group sessions are played from 1 or 1.30 to 4pm aproximately at a cost £1, Wednesday and Friday and £.1.50 for Thursday.

For more details contact Stanley on 01902 561908 or Keith on 01902 671728.

Formby fun with ukulele lady

Penn TG

THE guild business, various notices and federation report were completed and chairman, Mrs Ursula McInnes welcomed everyone and introduced the entertainment for the evening, Gabrielle the Ukulele Lady.

We were treated to a world tour of songs from her on a selection of ukuleles and she finished the tour with a medley of George Formby tunes with everyone joining in.

The gardening group visited the Wodehouse at Wombourne where we had coffee and a guided tour.

Social studies evening was a strawberry supper. Penn Poets entertained with poems, some of which were their own and very and amusing.

Future Dates: September 9, 'Staffordshire Privies' – Mr. A. Poulton-Smith; Sep 23, 'Zimbabwe Safari' – Mike Wilkes

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road at 7.15 pm.

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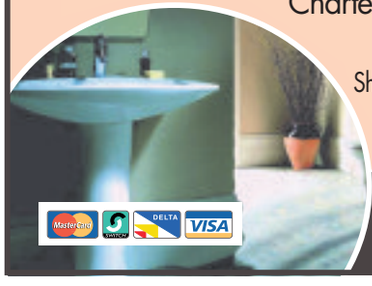

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Sometimes we can even help you find an employer who needs an apprentice.

If you are disappointed with your results don't let that stop you coming into Dudley College to find out what you can do.

We are proud of all the help and support we give to our students, so why not take advantage of this and let us help you to get into university or get that brilliant job.

To find out about the options available to you at Dudley College, contact Student Services on 01384 363 363.

Help is at hand for students following their GCSE results

Apartments with a touch of glass

The new canalside apartment complex in Wordsley

THESE images show the changing face of a once famous glassworks.

This site at the heart of Stourbridge's glass quarter is being transformed into a £5 million museum and canalside apartment block.

These artist's impressions of the Wordsley apartment complex were released as heritage bosses revealed their bid for £2.1m towards the museum was successful.

Complex Developments managing director, Ian Harrabin, said: "The offices and apartments will be fantastic. Incredibly stylish and sophisticated inside and out – just a nice place to live.

"We have already had people express interest regarding the apartments before we are yet to release a proper pricing plan. The progress with the whole site is coming along very well."

It is hoped that the apartments will be completed by February.

The glass museum, which is being built on part on the factory site, once known as the White House Glass Cone, will showcase the area's glass making history.

Broadfield House Glass Museum will close at the end of September with the glass collection moved to the new site in autumn 2016.

Inside view of one of the apartments

Chance to work in Westminster

AN MP is calling people to apply for work placements and training at Westminster.

Ian Austin, who represents Dudley North, is taking part in this year's Speaker's Parliamentary Placement Scheme.

The project gives people from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to work for nine months alongside MPs in Parliament.

Mr Austin will be one of the MPs who will open his office to one of the placements.

The scheme offers a London Living Wage to 10 successful applicants, who otherwise might not be able to afford to take work experience in Westminster.

It aims to make access to Parliament more representative of the UK population as a whole and previously successful applicants include single parents and part-time carers.

Open to people of all ages, backgrounds and locations, applications need to be submitted by midday on August 21.

Lenny's script a little too close to home for his sister

DUDLEY-BORN comedian Sir Lenny Henry said opening up about his childhood for a drama was so raw that even his sister will not read the script.

The Comic Relief funnyman stars in and wrote BBC drama, Danny And The Human Zoo, a 'fantasy memoir' of his life as a talented teenager in 1970s Dudley.

"Because a lot of people in my family are alive, if I'd written it exactly the way my life had been, I would have annoyed a lot of people," the actor said.

"It's a bit like a parallel universe Lenny. My sister still won't read it because she thinks it's too rude."

Sir Lenny, 56, portrays Samson Fearon in the one-off drama, which stars newcomer Kascion Franklin as aspiring impressionist Danny and Cecilia Noble as his mother Myrtle. His comments come as the BBC revealed scores of lucky residents from Dudley will get the chance to attend a red carpet screening of the new drama in the town this week.

Sir Lenny said: "The storyline with my mum and dad is based on the truth. I didn't want to write it in a way that was pedantic. I talk about my mum and dad in every interview I do. The dad I talk about is the person that raised me. I wanted something that was truthful about the way we grew up and our family. It wasn't like it was a big deal or anything. I'm glad I have written about it and it was about time."

Sir Lenny – who has openly spoken about his estranged relationship with his father, who died when he was 19 – said it has been 'great' imagining alternate scenarios."

A preview of Danny and the Human Zoo takes place at the Showcase Cinema, Castlegate, tonight (Thursday).

Sir Lenny Henry, aged 56

Fruity ale going down a treat

A STOURBRIDGE ale has proved a hit with customers after more than 40,000 bottles were sold by Aldi stores in just three months.

The discount supermarket has an exclusive deal with Sadler's Brewery, Stourbridge to stock its Boris Citrov ale.

Aldi shoppers have snapped up the pale golden brew which is made with American and English hops combined with buckets of real orange marmalade and orange peel to give it a sweet taste.

The name of the ale is based on a fictional Russian boxer created by the firm.

Ian King at Sadler's Brewery said: "Our Boris Citrov marmalade ale is one of our most popular brews thanks to its zesty and refreshing flavour.

"We're absolutely thrilled to be quenching the thirst of Aldi shoppers in the Midlands – the ale has gone down a storm."

Ex-Villa player joins the college team

Former Villa player Andy Comyn takes on a new role

A FORMER Aston Villa and Albion defender has a new role at Dudley College.

Andy Comyn – who started out in Manchester United's youth team – has signed to the college as its new vice-principal for financial strategy and control.

The 47-year-old started his career in professional football with Villa after completing a physics degree at Birmingham University.

He also enjoyed spells at Derby County, Plymouth Argyle and Albion, but studied a book-keeping course during his playing days to ensure there was life after football.

Albion offered him a contract in 1996, but he instead moved to Hednesford Town – where he was able to balance playing football and working as an accountant in Walsall.

In addition to his career in finance, Mr Comyn has also enjoyed a five-year spell as a governor at Halesowen College.

He said: "It's great to be here and part of such an ambitious, dynamic forward-thinking organisation.

Mr Comyn replaces Gary Turton.

Taxi bosses trained to spot child abuse

TAXI operators in Dudley will be made to attend training sessions in a bid to help drivers spot signs of child sexual exploitation.

Dudley Council said it had made the move in the wake of the Rotherham child sex scandal.

Under the changes, base operators will need to have attended sessions before they can receive a private hire licence.

Operators will be told how to spot the signs that a child may be in danger and how to report it. They will then be told to pass the information on to their drivers.

Councillor Richard Body, chairman of the taxis committee, said: "Child sexual exploitation is a horrendous crime and it is important we all know how we can help protect children and young people by being able to spot the signs.

"By the nature of their work, taxi drivers can play a vital role in spotting and reporting suspicious behaviour."

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Labour Club closes after 93 years

Councillors Julie Webb, left, and Ann Shackleton outside Cradley Heath Labour Club which has shut its doors

CRADLEY Heath Labour Club has closed after more than 90 years after bosses admitted they could no longer afford to keep it running.

The Graingers Lane venue was regularly packed with drinkers in years gone by but has struggled in recent times. Members were told the club could no longer afford to keep running.

The building, which is owned by the committee which runs it, has been put up for sale with a property developer having already shown interest.

The labour club opened in 1922. Membership reached its peak during the 1960s.

Club secretary Albert Gough said: "It has been down to a lack of membership and attendance. We have just run out of money, with our debts around £75,000.

Sad

"The building has been put up for sale but I do not know what will happen with it. It is a very sad time for those people who have been regulars for some years.

"In the end there were just 56 paid members, in the club's heyday there were a few hundred."

Karon Roper, who worked behind the bar for around a year, was told two weeks before the club closed that she was going to lose her job. She admitted the decision did not come as a huge surprise.

"It's been struggling for years, it had been in the pipeline for quite some time.

"The price of beer is expensive and it's one of those things with clubs, they are shutting up and down the country."

Cradley Heath councillor Julie Webb said: "It has served the community well. I just hope whoever buys the property can retain its use as a club."

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Hammer gang is jailed for pub fruit machine raids which netted £30,000

ARMED raiders who stole £30,000 by smashing fruit machines with a lump hammer at more than 30 pubs, have been jailed.

Noel Lacey and Adam Power carried out burglaries at premises across Staffordshire, the Black Country and wider West Midlands before trying to give police the slip by moving south, a court was told.

Birmingham Crown Court heard the gang were in and out within two minutes and were only caught when they rammed a blockade of unmarked police cars in a sting before being dragged from their hired BMW and arrested.

Their spree began at The Copcut Elm, Droitwich, on January 22, when stole £1,000.

On January 26, they stole £2,000 from fruit machines at the Unicorn in Alspath Lane, Coventry, and went on to attack pubs across Dudley, Sandwell and Birmingham including The Hunting Tree, Alexandra Road, Halesowen, The Glassworks, Audham Road, Stourbridge and The Pheasant Inn, Abbey Road, Smethwick.

Police say Lacey, aged 40, and Power, 38, then moved further afield to Cannock, Hereford and Banbury in a bid to avoid capture. But, after scouring hours of CCTV, West Midlands Police were waiting for them when they pulled onto the car park of The Man in the Moon, Harrow, Essex, early on April 1 this year.

The BMW hire car had false plates, while two holdalls containing a large quantity of pound coins and two lump hammers were found in the boot.

Detectives later searched Power's home and found a stash of fruit machine takings.

Lacey, from Sibdon Grove, West Heath, and Power of Crychan Close, Hawksley, both Birmingham, admitted conspiracy to burgle and one charge of robbery at the Royal Hop Pole pub,Tewkesbury, where they threatened staff.

They were jailed for seven-and-a-half and six-and-a-half years, respectively.

Hawkins, 20, from Hollybank Road in Billesley, Birmingham, admitted roles in the last four raids and was jailed for three years.

Other pubs targeted by the gang included The Crown, Alcester Road, Kings Heath, The Fox Inn, Sutton Coldfield, The Bristol Pear, Selly Oak and Devonshire Arms, Coventry.

Drivers helping baby care unit

BUS drivers have raised almost £700 to help fund vital supplies and equipment for babies that require specialist care.

A team from National Express West Midlands' garage in Pensnett has donated the cash to Russells Hall Hospital.

Bus driver Dave Gerrard organised a charity football match between his garage and West Midlands Police to raise cash for the hospital's neonatal unit.

It raised £330 which was match-funded by the National Express Employee Charity Panel.

Mr Gerrard and his colleagues recently presented a cheque for the £660 raised to neonatal consultant Subramanian Mahadevan and hospital fundraising manager Karen Phillips.

Former footie stars at fun day

Gareth Edwards, referee Mark Pearson and Mel Eves with brothers Ben and Jacob Powney

FORMER Wolves players including Mel Eves and Jody Craddock will get back on the ball for a family fun day.

An 11-a-side charity football match will be the highlight of the event taking place at Stourbridge Football Club on September 20.

It has been organised by law firm Higgs & Sons and staff will form a team to take on the former Wolves stars.

People can also bid for a place in the starting line up for Higgs & Sons.

All of the money raised on the day will go to the firm's chosen charity for the year, the Alzheimer's Society. Last year's event which saw Higgs take on a team of Aston Villa Old Stars raised almost £4,000 for the Prince's Trust.

There are up to 22 places in the Higgs squad available, with each player playing at least a 35 minute half.

For anyone interested in playing against their sporting heroes, or not depending on allegiances, bids can be registered by contacting Sarah Bryan by email sarah.bryan@higgsandsons.co.uk, who is co-ordinating the event for the Black Country-based firm.

Players must be 16 or over, but all abilities are welcome. The deadline for bids is 5pm on August 21.

Album dedicated to inspirational brother

A FOUNDER of the Black Country Day festival has released a CD dedicated to his brother who died suddenly of a heart attack.

Brian Dakin – better known as poet, author and broadcaster Billy Spakemon – was stunned when he heard of his brother Gary's death on his 58th birthday in June.

Despite battling myeloma for five years, Gary's death was not connected to the disease but the result of a sudden heart attack while training at the gym.

As a tribute to his 'inspirational' brother, Brian has put pen to paper for the album titled ''E Wuss More Than A Mon I'll Ever Be'.

Brian, of Oldbury, said: "I think being the middle two brothers of four we were very close in terms of what we did.

"We were just into the same things. Really we were as close as you could get when it comes to how we looked at life."

The 63-year-old's latest CD is his ninth in two years and was recorded in Wednesbury.

Brian will perform at the Barlow Theatre, Langley, on September 26.

For tickets, or to enquire about the CD, call 07514

Club's new president

A ROTARY club has appointed its new president.

Roy Sanders will take the helm of the Kinver club for a second time – becoming only the second member to hold the presidency twice.

Mr Sanders, of Lakeside, is one of six remaining founder club members. He first became president in 1994.

Mr Sanders has also been secretary and treasurer over the years.

Prior to his retirement as Managing Director of Wild Manufacturing in Birmingham he worked in financial management at Ratcliffs of Great Bridge and Round Oak Steelworks in Brierley Hill.

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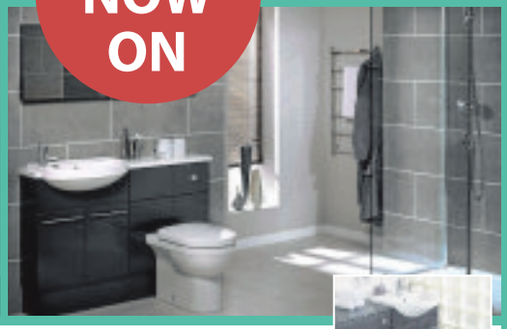

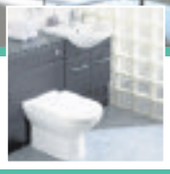

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Tribute to family man who died in bike crash

'HE was loving and helpful – the type of bloke who would always be there for you if you were in trouble.'

These are the words of Wayne Shaw as he paid tribute to his brother-in-law Stewart Hollyoake, following his tragic death in a motorbike crash.

Biking fanatic Mr Hollyoake, 52, of Netherton, was killed last month in an accident in Shropshire.

Mr Shaw said engineer Mr Hollyoake had fallen in love with motorbikes late in life, having only gained his licence in his 40s.

His love of being out on the road took over from all his other hobbies.

Proud

Mr Hollyoake died in an accident on the B4368 between Craven Arms and Bridgnorth on July 31 at 4.50pm.

Mr Shaw, of Tilston Drive, Brierley Hill, married to Mr Hollyoake's sister Joanne, said: "Stewart loved his family. He lived life how he wanted to live it and was a proud man. He looked after his mum.

"He was also a really funny guy, he had a wicked sense of humour."

Mr Hollyoake was raised on the Brickhouse Estate in Rowley Regis, where his mother, Sheila-Anne, still lives.

He leaves his wife Dawn and son John.

FOCUS ON NETHERTON

Musical night raises lots of notes for cancer cause

A CHARITY night raised more than £1,500 to support cancer patients at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

The musical night at Netherton Sports and Social Club, Netherton Lane, was organised by fundraisers Carl Bottley and Wayne Wise on behalf of Christine Bowen, of Netherton.

Mrs Bowen, aged 58, of Spring Road, underwent treatment for cancer at the hospital's Georgina Unit between last October and February.

She wanted to so something to support the ward and show her gratitude to the staff who had looked after her.

Her husband Colin, 62, approached Mr Bottley and Mr Wise and asked if a charity event could be organised to raise cash for the ward.

The event raised a total of £1,578 and Mrs Bowen and her husband Colin attended the hospital to hand over the money to fundraising manager of the hospital trust charity Karen Phillips.

Mrs Bowen said: "The treatment I received at the hospital was wonderful and the support I was given by the staff first-rate. I cannot fault them," she said.

By Lee Watton

"I am doing really well now and wanted to do something to say thank you. My husband approached Colin and Wayne to see if they could organise a charity night to raise funds for the unit. I am delighted by the success of the event."

Mr Bottley, who has organised a number of previous charity events, said: "It was a great night and everyone enjoyed themselves.

"It was for a great cause and we hope the money raised will help to support the work of the ward."

The event took place in July and featured singers including Debbie Alexander and Dave Stevens. Alongside the musical entertainment, raffles were also held throughout the event in order to bring in more cash.

Theresa Owen in the salon after her hair cut at Top Knot, with the charity cheque

Theresa's short cut to charity

A DUDLEY woman raised more than £600 for charity by having her head shaved.

Theresa Owen raised the cash for the Georgina cancer unit and neo-natal unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Miss Owen, aged 56, from Halesowen Road, said: "I had gone through a rough patch and decided that I wanted to inspire and change the lives of others.

"Most of my family passed away from cancer and my best friend had it too, so that was why I chose the Georgina unit.

"I had spoke to my friends at Top Knot Hair Salon about having my head shaven for charity last year and we decided that we would like to get the community involved, so we held it at the salon and baked cakes and things like that. I don't miss my hair at all."

Open day to celebrate new base

A FIRM providing home care for older people in the Black Country, has moved to new premises and will hold an open day on August 26.

The office for Home Instead Senior Care, Dudley and Sandwell South, is now at Savoy Business Centre on Northfield Road, Netherton. The open event will run from 1-4pm.

Ian Williams, owner of Home Instead, said: "After three years we are now a well-established business in the Dudley and Sandwell area and I'm extremely proud of our reputation in the local community, which has allowed us to provide care to 73 clients.

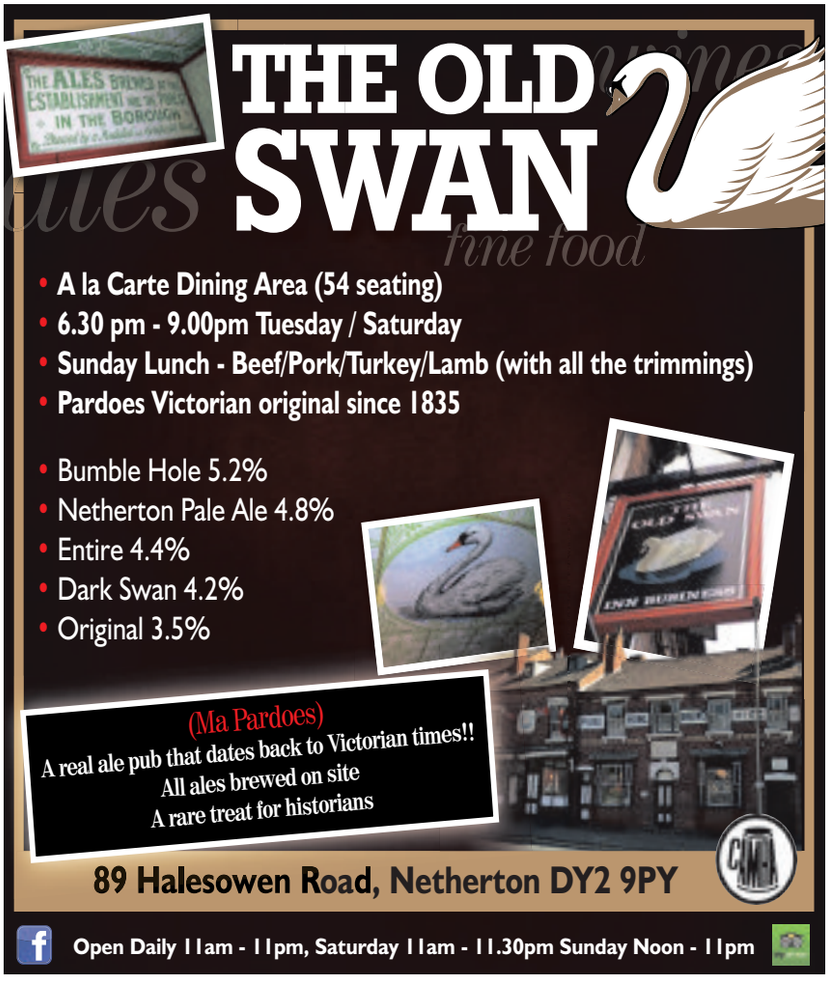
"We had outgrown our office at Castlemill and needed premises that would allow us to expand our team of care givers and training facilities."

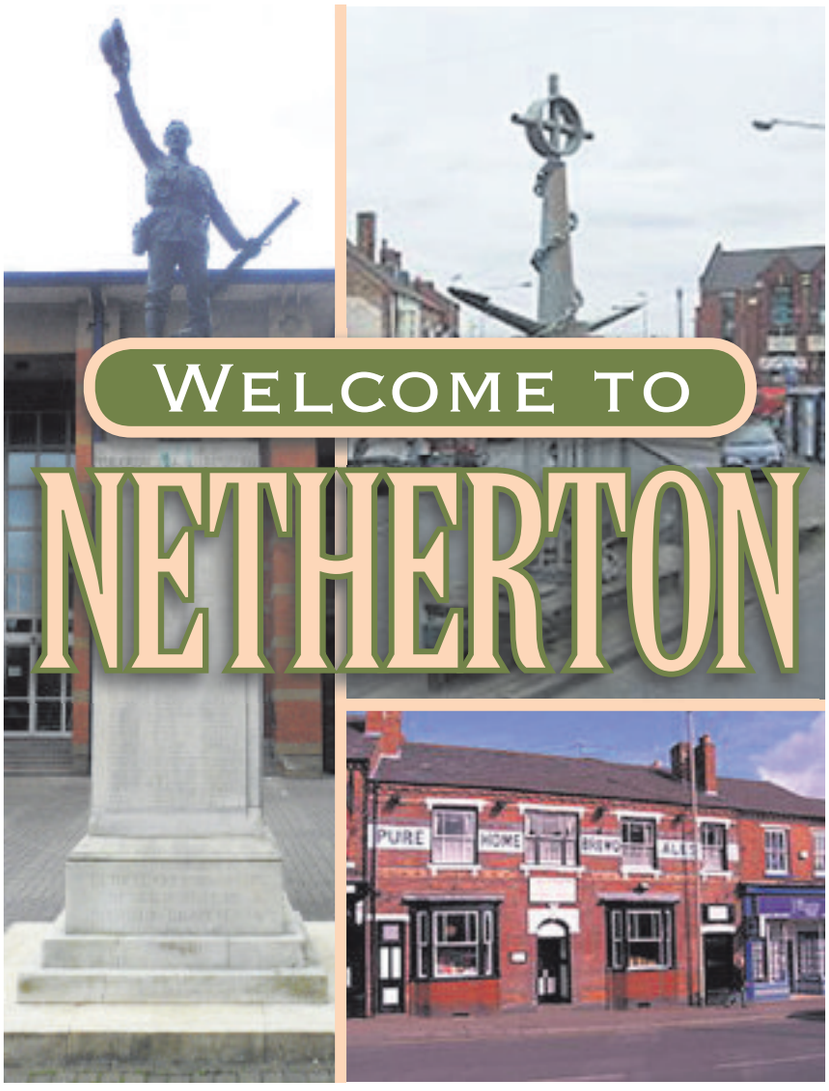
Strong men are wanted

ENTRIES are still being sought for a competition to find Sandwell's strongest man.

The event will be held at Sandwell Valley Country Park in West Bromwich on August 30 and 31 as part of the Sandwell Show.

A training sessions will be held at Hadley Stadium in Smethwick on Sunday August 23 from 9.45am to 11.45am.





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Protesters take fight to brewery HQ

The protest at Marston's, Wolverhampton, against the proposed closure of Seven Stars pub

PUB-GOERS fighting to stop their local being turned into a supermarket have taken their fight to the top brass at Marston's brewery.

Up to 20 campaigners from the Seven Stars, Sedgley, travelled to the brewers' offices in Wolverhampton in a bid to save the pub, which is expected to close in early September. Led by Bill Etheridge MEP, who represents Sedgley on Dudley Council, the group brandished placards and chanted before marching to the gates in Brewery Road.

Councillor Etheridge said the fight would go on and has arranged to meet Marston's CEO Ralph Findlay on August 25.

Marston's said: "Marston's has been in regular and open dialogue with the campaigners since November last year."

Hit-run victim left in road

A PENSIONER was knocked down by a van and then left for dead in the road while the driver circled around him.

Witnesses told of their shock as they dashed to help the victim following the hit-and-run in Sedgley.

The 78-year-old man, named locally as John Rudge, was left in the road after being hit by what is thought to be a white Renault Kangoo van last Thursday at 3.30pm.

Police are scouring CCTV for clues in a bid to trace the driver and passenger involved. West Midlands Police said the driver lingered at the scene before making off down Queens Road.

The pensioner, who lives in Sedgley, had been shopping at a nearby Spar store before being knocked down as he crossed Beacon Lane. He was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries, though his condition is now improving.

The men in the van are described as white, both believed to be in their 20s, and were each wearing high-visibility orange vests.

The vehicle was missing two wheel trims and had a large custom-fitted lock on the rear doors. Anyone with information is urged to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Victim John Rudge

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The Mayor of Bilston giving tea to evacuees following their arrival

Evacuees in a Baptist school hall in Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Women's Voluntary Service distributing clothes to evacuee mothers

Recalling days of Operation Pied Piper

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

VIVID news film of the conflicts in Spain, Abyssinia and China of the mid-1930s onwards brought home to the British people the awfulness of modern warfare.

Mostly because it not only affected those in the Armed Forces, but it also devastated the lives of countless numbers of civilians.

Distressing footage showed the panic of old men, women and children as they fled air raids and the onslaughts of enemy troops. It made plain the gruesome injuries, maimings and corpses. And it revealed clearly the havoc, desolation and inhumanity of war.

The effects of aerial bombing in particular affected the considerations of the British government. As early as 1935, when appeasement was pursued vigorously and rearmament was still resisted, procedures were put in place for training experts to co-ordinate civilian responses if war broke out and there were raids on Britain's cities.

Children among London evacuees who arrived in Wolverhampton on July 11, 1944. The Express & Star said they 'crooned all the way'

Accordingly, organised evacuation was a major feature of wartime preparations. On September 1, 1939, two days before war was declared, national and local plans were put into operation in Operation Pied Piper. It was the biggest movement of people in the history of Britain. Those who went away did so with their schools, and around 100,000 teachers were involved, acting as guardians for their pupils. Some of these were as young as five. In later evacuations, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton and Smethwick were places to which London evacuees were sent.

Among those involved was the family of Des Stokes, who asks: "Since 1946 from time to time I have tried to locate the three children who stayed with my family. There was a boy named Cornelius and his two sisters, Pamela and Patricia, all from Croydon, Surrey. I never gave up hope of finding them and recently our search was rewarded, all due to my youngest grand-daughter Poppy, aged seven.

"The school that she attends in St Albans in Hertfordshire gave her a book to read about the Second World War. My daughter suggested that Poppy should contact me because I had experienced what it was like during the air raids. Poppy was communicating with me via an iPad. Whilst I was talking to my granddaughter, I was interrupted by my own daughter, who suddenly said 'He is still alive!'. 'Who?', I said, and she read out details of a man named Cornelius.

"She had been using her computer and his name was followed by his address and contact number. I made a note of this and next day phoned the number, which was answered immediately. We had a good chat and it was revealed that this was one of the evacuees, and both of his sisters were still alive.

"He also gave me the telephone number of Pamela, who was overjoyed to hear from me when I phoned her, as she too had been trying to find us to say thank you for caring for them all during their stay as evacuees.

"We hoped that we could meet them soon. After 70 years, we had a lot to talk about, and it all started with my seven-year-old grand-daughter and her question about evacuees. We finally contacted one of the evacuees on March 3, 2015 and a date was fixed for her to visit us on April 21. Between the two dates I had tried to find out any details of the dates that evacuees had arrived in Smethwick, also which school they had attended. I tried the Archives in Smethwick and Sandwell and 'Smethwick Heritage' magazine, all to no avail. It was looking as if there was no such thing as evacuees in Smethwick."

Des adds: "Inquiries directed me to the Thimblemill Library where I spoke to a lady who was on the board of governors and she promised to make a few phone calls.

"She had our phone number and contacted us the day after to say that my wife and myself together with the evacuee could visit the school on April 22. Whilst conducting this search, I was also looking into records on the evacuees' brother, who had spent eight months in the Hollies (also known as Coopers Lane Open Air School), but with no result at all.

"At long last the evacuee arrived on April 21 and next day we all went to Uplands School. On arrival the evacuee immediately recognised the school and proved that she had attended during her stay in Mansion Crescent.

"The guide showed us around and at the end produced documents for the evacuee and her sister which clearly showed her date of birth, when they started and when they left.

"One of the classes intended to do a project on the Second World War, and both my wife and I will be invited to sit in front to answer questions."

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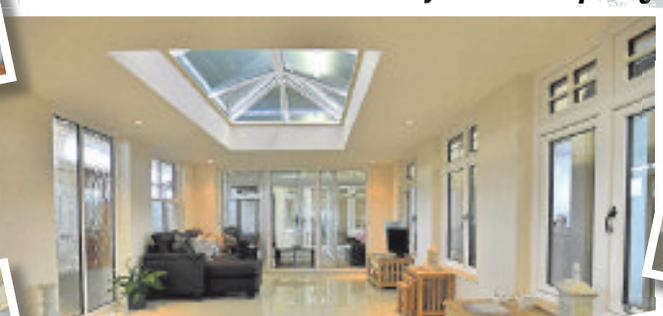

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Time being called on derelict eyesore pub

A DERELICT pub in Pensnett has become an eyesore which residents fear could hit house prices in their neighbourhood.

They have raised a 1,500-strong petition demanding The Commercial pub at the junction of Bromley and Mullett Street, is redeveloped after standing empty for a decade.

It has become a magnet for vandals and flytippers with windows smashed and the building boarded up.

Members of Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association say children have even broken into the unsecure cellar of the pub, which is known to flood.

Broken

The site is littered with broken glass and rubbish, which has included a dumped fridge. The rear courtyard is heavily overgrown.

If they can get support, the residents will ask Dudley Council to commence legal action, to ensure the dilapidated state of the site is addressed.

Association chairman Cath Lloyd, aged 50, who has lived in the area for 20 years, said the pub has been left in a sorry state.

"It is an eyesore and it has been one of the issues that has been raised at almost every meeting of the group," she said.

Mother-of-one Michelle Morgan, 35, another member of the group, said action was needed now.

"There are a people nearby that want to sell their homes but they can't," said Mrs Morgan, who has lived in Pensnett for eight years.

"They have been told by potential buyers it is because of this pub.

"It has devalued their homes."

She added: "After speaking with ward councillors and taking advice we thought there was no other option to get together with one voice."

Campaigners say the are keen for the site to redeveloped but would also look to see the pub kept as a community centre to host youth groups.

Copies of the petition have been placed in shops throughout the area and it can also be signed online at www.change.org, searching for The Commercial Inn.

London-based Manorpress Properties Ltd owns the pub, once run by Hansons.

Manorpress could not be contacted for a comment.

The Commercial pub has become a target for vandals and a major concern for nearby residents

Classroom crime figures showing increase in weapons

ALMOST 4,000 crimes were reported in schools across the West Midlands over the past two years.

According to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act, West Midlands Police were alerted to 3,941 crimes committed in schools across the region in 2013 and 2014, ranging from theft and drugs to sexual offences and possession of weapons.

The most common crime was theft, with 1,368 cases across the two years, followed by violence against a person, which occurred 921 times.

Over the two-years, possession of weapons more than doubled, rising from 19 in 2013 to 45 the following year.

Sexual offences increased from 103 to 122 in 2014, and violence against a person also increased with 426 incidents recorded in 2013, and 495 in 2014.

Recorded

All other crimes decreased over the period, with theft showing the largest drop from 735 to 633.

Arson and criminal damage offences were down from 148 to 130. Drugs offences remained static with 40 recorded offences in both 2013 and 2014.

The figures come after a 14-year-old boy was given a 10-month referral order after pleading guilty to two charges of possessing a knife and one charge of using threatening behaviour. The teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, has since been expelled.

Despite an increase in crimes involving weapons at schools, knife crimes have been steadily falling in the West Midlands over the past decade, police say.

Robber is sent to jail four years after crime

A ROBBER threatened to cut a man's throat after he befriended him on a bus and lured him to an isolated area to take his money, a court heard.

by David Banner

Lee Ettlle was arrested three years after the attack took place when his victim spotted him at a bus station.

The court was told Ettlle originally started chatting with the 21-year-old on the number one bus service from Wolverhampton to Dudley.

Mr Scott Coughtrie, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court the victim gave his first statement on August 4, 2011, the day of the robbery, but was so distressed he could not breathe properly.

He spotted Ettlle on numerous occasions but each time he was gone before the police could find him.

Ettlle was arrested on May 25 2014 after the victim spotted him at Wolverhampton Bus Station.

Secluded

Mr Coughtrie said on the day of the robbery the pair got off the bus and Ettlle popped into a public house for a short while.

At Dudley Bus Station, where the victim was, Ettlle disappeared for about five minutes and returned with two other men.

They invited him to leave the bus station to go visit some girls, Mr Coughtrie said, and he was taken to a secluded area.

When he refused to hand over his phone it was snatched from him by one of the men and he was told it would be returned if he gave them money. Taking him to a nearby cash machine, Ettlle became frustrated when the victim deliberately entered the wrong PIN.

Mr Coughtrie said: "He made a direct threat, saying 'give us your money or I'll cut your throat'. The defendant made a gesture by moving his jacket as if he may have a knife."

Ettlle, aged 41, had employed a similar tactic on two previous occasions.

Mr Mukhtar Ubhi, defending, said Ettlle told him he was drunk and on drugs at the time: "His brain has fizzled out over the years of taking so many illicit substances that he can't actually remember what happened four years ago."

Since he has been in custody he has been taking drug and alcohol courses, and is on methadone.

Ettlle, previously of Falcon Way, Russells Hall, is serving 21 months in prison for burglary, after being sentenced in June this year. Mr Kershaw sentenced him to a further 18 months for robbery.

Charity rewarded

WEST Midlands charity Beacon has been given a social enterprise award for supporting people with sight loss.

Arwyn Jones, the Sedgley-based charity's chief executive, said: "Increasingly we are moving away from the traditional methods of charity fundraising, and looking for innovative ways to work with business and the local community for mutual benefit."

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Stakes run high in Labour contest

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

OH Andy, well you came and you gave without taking, but will they send you away?

For Andy Burnham, who visited Brierley Hill last weekend, the stakes are far higher in this long-running and increasingly bitter leadership contest.

Coming fourth in the 2010 election – behind even Ed Balls, who lost his own seat in Parliament five years later – he went into this bout with more to prove than the others.

But as the frontrunner when the competition opened he is also the one many would consider to have the best chance of seeing off the challenge of Jeremy Corbyn – a task that gets tougher as the left-winger soars ever higher in the opinion polls.

Damage

One of his biggest challenges, however, will be if he actually does win.

Frequently, when Ed Miliband raised the NHS at Prime Minister's Questions, David Cameron would point to the Mid-Staffordshire scandal as a way of shutting down the debate.

What happens when the former health secretary who decided against a public inquiry, fearing it would damage the trust beyond repair, addresses the PM?

The weekly question time is little more than an opportunity for grandstanding and showing off and Mr Burnham would undoubtedly fight his corner. Tom Watson, the West Bromwich East MP, remains the favourite to become deputy leader of the Labour party. But as Liz Kendall's chances of becoming Labour leader begin to resemble those of an ice cream on a barbecue, a couple of her supporters have been made an offer they almost certainly can refuse.

Deputy leader hopeful Tom Watson

Wolverhampton MPs Pat McFadden and Emma Reynolds both nominated the shadow care minister.

The two prominent players on the green benches, one shadow Europe minister and one shadow communities secretary, find themselves not exactly relishing the prospect of a Corbyn victory. Step forward Gavin Williamson, the affable and always smiling Tory MP for South Staffordshire.

"I'd be very willing to extend an olive branch to Pat and Emma if they ever wanted to join the Conservative party," he said. I'd imagine there's more likelihood of the MPs paying the £9.99 to join the Official Monster Raving Loony Party than take up that offer but it's always nice to be invited.

Lichfield Tory MP Michael Fabricant

Lichfield Conservative MP Michael Fabricant was sacked as a party vice chairman for his outspoken opposition to high speed rail.

But Jeremy Corbyn has questioned it as well and if he wins the Labour leadership and changes direction on HS2, it could upset the cross party consensus.

Mr Fabricant had pondered throwing in £3 to sign up as a Labour supporter and vote for Mr Corbyn.

Although with Labour having been on the look out for 'entryists', such a prominent Tory would have surely rung a few alarm bells.

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V Fest preview

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www.birminghamhippodrome.com

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Kate Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
Martyn Joseph has often been called "The Welsh Springsteen", but there are also shades of John Mayer, Bruce Cockburn and Dave Matthews in his music. A brilliant songwriter.
Visit **www.katiefitzgeralds.co.uk**

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Celebrating 20 years of V in style

Returning heroes Kasabian are ready to rock the V stage at Weston Park for the 20 anniversary festival

THE V Festival is pulling out all the stops for its 20th year anniversary.

More than 150,000 music lovers will head to the festival's two sites at Staffordshire's Weston Park and Chelmsford's Highlands Park, where a host of musical heavyweights will be celebrating the festival's second decade in style this weekend.

Global platinum-selling artist Calvin Harris and popular festival rockers Kasabian are top of the bill.

The line-up also includes Sam Smith, Paloma Faith, Ellie Goulding, The Script, Hozier, George Ezra, Olly Murs, James Bay, Stereophonics, Clean Bandit, Sir Tom Jones, Nero, Jessie Ware, Sigma, and Ella Eyre.

They will line up with a host of other star names across four stages.

The popular Glee Club Comedy Tent is returning with top acts including Russell Kane, Frankie Boyle, Seann Walsh and Matt Richardson.

The festival's northern site was originally in Leeds but moved to Weston Park, near Albrighton, in 1999 when Stereophonics also featured, alongside headlining fellow Welsh rockers Manic Street Preachers and soul legend James Brown.

Festival director Simon Moran said: "It is incredible to think what V has achieved in two decades."

For more information visit the www.vfestival.com website.

All Shook Up over Elvis

NEW musical Love Me Tender was created by the producers of Hairspray, Jersey Boys and West Side Story and is a feel-good show featuring Elvis Presley's greatest hits.

Starring 1980s pop star Mica Paris and former EastEnder Shaun Williamson, the story is set in small town 1950s America, where a guitar-playing, hip-swivelling stranger rides in on his motorbike and gets the locals All Shook Up.

Is he The Devil in Disguise or could he be headed for Heartbreak Hotel, but for Natalie, the love-struck, tomboy mechanic, it really is Now or Never.

Packed with 25 of the best loved songs by The King himself, Love Me Tender, is a funny and moving tale of hope and the healing qualities of rock 'n' roll.

Mica Paris says: "I think the thing I loved about Love Me Tender was the story. It's really clever. The story is not about Elvis, particularly. It's more of a comedy. It's all about young love, unrequited love and mature love.

"The story is what made me fall for it. Sylvia my character is so me, it's me with an American accent. It's almost like the people were thinking of me when they wrote it."

The music must also have been a draw?

"Oh yeah, for sure. It's packed with great songs. Elvis was a gospel guy in the beginning and it works for me. The minute I started singing the soundtrack, it sounded perfect. It felt great."

Love Me Tender will be staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, August 24 to 29.

Black Country rock band's debut ready

HOTLY-TIPPED Black Country rockers EofE have announced details of their first album.

The Dudley band will release their self titled debut on October 9 through Cream Records following a year of relentless touring.

The release comes off the back of the group's performance at Download Festival earlier this year and will feature all of their singles released to date.

EofE have toured with Glamour Of The Kill and supported McBusted at the LG Arena.

Fronted by singer Tom Harris, the band's sound has been described as thunderous stadium rock with addictive pop melodies. For more information see www.eofe.com website.

Keep eyes open for The Fratellis

GLASWEGIAN trio The Fratellis, are back and heading to Birmingham's O2 Academy tonight (Thursday) to launch their new album Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied.

The band is looking forward to showcasing its latest material. Frontman Jon Fratelli said: "We had a record out two years ago, so it does not feel like we have been away that long. We are looking forward to going out and playing the songs."

Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied, the band's first since third studio album We Need Medicine in 2013, was completed in two weeks with high energy tracks similar to hits Chelsea Dagger and Whistle For The Choir.

Bolan tribute born to boogie at Robin

NEXT month marks what would have been glam rock star Marc Bolan's 68th birthday, and also the 38th anniversary of his death in a car crash, aged 29.

The corkscrew-haired frontman of T Rex has become a 70s icon and the timeless quality of his good time boogie music continues to win new fans.

Tribute band T Rextasy, led by Bolan devotee Danielz, have now been gigging longer than the original T Rex. They return to the Black Country to play the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday, August 29.

Tickets cost £13 in advance or £15 on the door. See www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

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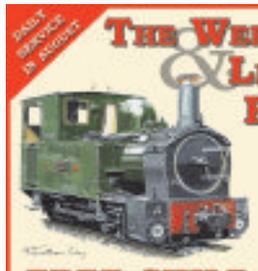

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Youngsters can enjoy photographs with Shrek

Paul's hotel of choice – the luxurious Conrad London St James

The Star Wars attraction at Madame Tussauds, London

Capital gain for families thanks to a range of great attractions

By Paul Naylor

MY daughter Rachel, 14, and son Matthew, 12, had never been to the 'big smoke', so when the opportunity arose to spend some quality time in Londinium, they were thrilled.

Travelling by train is, in my opinion, the best option. Book online early and you can save a small fortune, reserving a seat in the process – an absolute must with regular trains from the likes of Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Shrewsbury and Telford.

Catching the train at Wolverhampton, we arrived at Euston station within two hours and transferred to St James's Park Tube Station directly opposite our hotel – the stunning five-star Conrad London St James.

Sitting on the doorstep of Westminster, Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, not only does it have a prime location, but also comes with chic design and wonderful service.

Visitors can enjoy a distinctive, locally sourced selection of culinary delights at the Blue Boar restaurant. And then there is the elegant Emmeline's Lounge, ideal for afternoon tea.

There is complimentary WiFi and Nespresso machines in every room and, as we were executive floor guests, complimentary breakfast and other treats throughout the day. Rachel and Matthew had never seen anything quite like it.

In around five minutes, we had walked past Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, crossing Westminster Bridge with the London Eye prominent in view. The South Bank is vibrant, with tourists enjoying a bite to eat with a fabulous vista. Many, like us, were there to see pre-booked attractions. First on the list, The London Dungeon.

Even Matthew, who can be a little hesitant with such scary stuff, thought it was great fun. Rachel particularly enjoyed the 'public lynching' we endured at the end. A short walk and we were at our next venue. Sea Life London Aquarium is home to one of Europe's largest collections of marine life from around the globe.

New for 2015, Sea Dragon Kingdom has some of the ocean's most weird and wonderful fish and intrepid adventurers can follow a fun Lego-based trail with a free deep sea explorer activity pack, helping to find missing equipment hidden amongst the sharks, starfish and shoals of bright tropical fish.

Towards the end of the attraction, I enjoyed the history of London unfolding in the new Thames Walk. Our final visit of the day was to the all-new Shrek's Adventure London. Based on the popular Dreamworks animated characters from the Shrek movies, plus Kung Fu Panda and Madagascar, it combines a brilliant 4D bus ride/flight to the kingdom of Far, Far Away and a walking tour of the fantasy land.

On returning to London from the fairytale kingdom, visitors can have photos with Shrek and friends before exiting through a shop laden with 'Shrektastic' goodies.

The summer evening allowed us plenty of opportunity for further sightseeing, including a stop off at Nelson's Column and Buckingham Palace. We returned to the Conrad, ready to take on our next day's fun outing to Madame Tussauds.

I recommend going to London with your children and experience for yourself the range of great attractions. You might knock a few years off your own age in doing so.

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CHOICE

Bradley Walsh

Keep It in the Family (ITV, 7pm)
Bradley Walsh tries to keep a straight face as families from Warwickshire and Kent compete to win a selection of prizes, with the kids taking the lead as usual. The two clans will be attempting wacky challenges and donning daft outfits to win points, before deciding decide whether to swap a prize, drop it or keep it in the family. This week's cowering celebrities facing the dreaded trap door are six stars from The Only Way Is Essex, while the beloved Nanas return to explain common phrases and topics - in their own risque way. Plus, there are performances from a speed-painting artist, and a children's theatre group, who sing a popular number from Mary Poppins.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Live Athletics: World Championships. Live coverage of the opening day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing. **3.00** Equestrian: European Jumping Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.00 BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.20 Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist teams up with a rebellious teenager who draws him into a search in the Amazon jungle for a mysterious artefact of untold power. But their quest is hindered by Soviet agents, who also want the fabled object for an altogether more sinister purpose. Action adventure sequel, updating the series to a 1950s Cold War setting, starring Harrison Ford.

8.15 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the all-important weekend draw.

9.10 Casualty. Part one of two. Zoe visits Dylan and persuades him to get help for his OCD, and Lily desperately seeks her parents' approval after being promoted to registrar. Meanwhile, the team helps a father forgive his daughter after he discovers she gave her mother the pill that caused her untimely death. Elsewhere, a man lies to his girlfriend about an accident involving her seven year old son, but Ethan convinces him to come clean.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Newcastle United and Crystal Palace v Aston Villa; National Lottery Update.

11.40 Rugby Union. France v England.

12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Practice One. (R) **7.55** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Practice Two. (R) **9.55** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Practice Three. **11.05** Live Athletics: World Championships. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.00** Athletics: World Championships Highlights.

6.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth. Life in the tropical Atlantic, where everything from dolphins, manatees and whale sharks to sunbathing jellyfish thrive in the Caribbean's warm, sheltered waters, fringed by coral reefs and rich mangrove forests. But when extreme heat in Africa unleashes terrifying hurricanes, all hell breaks loose across the region. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Proms Extra 2015. Katie Derham is joined by Chi-Chi Nwanoku and Roderick Williams to review Bach's solo violin works, Mahler's ninth symphony and Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra.

7.40 Edwardian Farm. The trio face their busiest period of the year as harvest arrives, but find time to relax with a day out at the seaside featuring musical entertainment and a Punch and Judy show. (R)

8.40 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and Sergeant Wilson are trapped in the bank vault with an unexploded bomb. (R)

9.10 Julie Walters: A Life on Screen. The actress chats about her career, from her beginnings in theatre through to her successes in TV and film. With contributions by Victoria Wood, Celia Imrie and Hugh Bonneville. (R)

10.10 Film: Calendar Girls. (2003) Members of a Yorkshire branch of the Women's Institute cause controversy when they pose nude for a charity calendar. Fact-based comedy drama, with Helen Mirren and Julie Walters.

11.55 Film: Titanic Town. (1998) A woman raising a family in 1970s Belfast leads a campaign for an end to violence after her friend is accidentally killed. Fact-based drama, starring Julie Walters.

1.30 Live Athletics: World Championships.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Celebrity Squares. (R) **3.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates another selection of clips, including a girl who keeps raisins in her ears, seals with an attitude problem and how to destroy a shed using a single head-butt. (R)

7.00 Keep It in the Family. Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families from Warwickshire and Kent go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. Six stars from The Only Way Is Essex face the drop as the teams decide whether to swap a prize, drop it or keep it in the family, and there are performances from a speed-painting artist and a children's theatre group, singing a favourite number from Mary Poppins. And of course, the Nanas are back.

8.00 The Saturday Night Story. Part two of two. Ant and Dec pay tribute to comedy duos and Debra Stephenson and Jon Culshaw reveal their favourite impressionists. Plus, Blind Date with the late Cilla Black.

9.00 The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies. Fact-based feature-length drama, starring Jason Watkins. It's December 2010 and retired teacher Christopher Jefferies finds his life in Bristol turned upside down when the police question him about the disappearance of his tenant Joanna Yeates. Her murder then becomes a major news story and the press seize upon Jefferies as a suspect, despite a lack of evidence – with destructive results. With Ben Caplan, Shaun Parkes, Nathalie Armin and Joe Sims.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 The Chase. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Cardiff Triathlon. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from York, Sandown Park and Chester. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. On the final day of the competition in south-east London it is part-time event organiser Gina's turn to throw a dinner party. She rolls out an evening of fine dining inspired by her love of cookery courses, but her culinary prowess fails to make an impact on Vincenzo, as he reveals he already ate dinner at home due to his belief that women can't cook. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Veteran actors and married couple Timothy West and Prunella Scales continue their journey and reach the Rochdale Canal – a waterway that was a main artery for the textile industry at the height of the Industrial Revolution. They begin in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, and head west through Mytholmroyd, before journeying up over the Pennines to the canal summit, more than 600ft above sea level.

8.00 Film: Battleship. (2012) A reckless slacker joins the Navy, hoping to win the respect of his girlfriend's father, a stern admiral. He and his shipmates are put to the ultimate test as part of a force of vessels that must battle an invading fleet of powerful alien spaceships. Sci-fi adventure, starring Taylor Kitsch.

10.35 Film: Rush Hour 3. (2007) An assassination attempt sets mismatched detectives Lee and Carter off on a mission to take on Triad gangs in Paris. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

12.20 The Last Leg. (R) **1.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.20** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.15** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **5.10** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.30** Draw It! (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.30** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.30** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.25 Film:** Columbo: Blueprint for Murder. (1972) Crime drama, directed by and starring Peter Falk. **2.55 Film:** Mosquito Squadron. (1969) Second World War drama, starring David McCallum. **4.45 Film:** The Sea Wolves. (1980) Fact-based Second World War adventure, with Gregory Peck; 5 News Update.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Action from the third day of the series-concluding Fifth Test, which comes from the Oval. This has proven to be a good venue for the hosts over the years and their record here is quite exceptional, and only two touring sides have left here with a victory in the last 10 years – those being Pakistan in 2010 and South Africa in 2012. If Australia are to emerge triumphant they will definitely have to improve their performance with the bat, although they did show in the second Test at Lord's what they are capable of when scoring 566/8 declared in the first innings.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Steve discover a locked wooden case when they are called to evict tenants from a flat in London's Docklands. Opening it up, they realise they urgently need police back-up – and the property quickly becomes a crime scene. Brian and Graham head to Swindon Town FC to collect a debt, while Paul's team arrives at a property in Essex to find that they have to remove a woman and her six children. (R)

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the latest games, including Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday and Charlton Athletic v Hull City in the Championship, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points.

10.25 Greatest Ever Sitcoms. Mel Giedroyc narrates a countdown of the nation's 50 best-loved TV comedies, as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in an online poll. (R)

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Transporter: The Series. **4.00** Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear: Best of Series 22 **9.00 Film:** Minority Report (2002) **11.20** Family Guy **1.40** Top Coppers **2.10** People Just Do Nothing **3.10** Young, Welsh and Pretty Skint **3.40** Dead Air **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano **8.00** Sicily Unpacked **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.50** Top of the Pops: 1979 – Big Hits **11.50** Status Quo: Live and Acoustic **12.50** Sounds of the Eighties **1.15** Sicily Unpacked **2.15** Lost Land of the Volcano **3.15** Sounds of the Eighties **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.20 Take Me Out **12.30** The X Factor: Cheryl's Classic Cuts **1.30** You've Been Framed! **2.00 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **3.45 Film:** The Shaggy Dog (2006) **5.40** The X Factor: Olly & Caroline's Top 10 **6.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.00 Film:** Knocked Up (2007) **11.40 Film:** The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **2.05** Fake Reaction **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.55 Wycliffe **1.00** A Touch of Frost **3.05 Film:** Holiday On the Buses (1973) **4.55 Film:** Columbo: It's All in the Game (1993) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.30** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

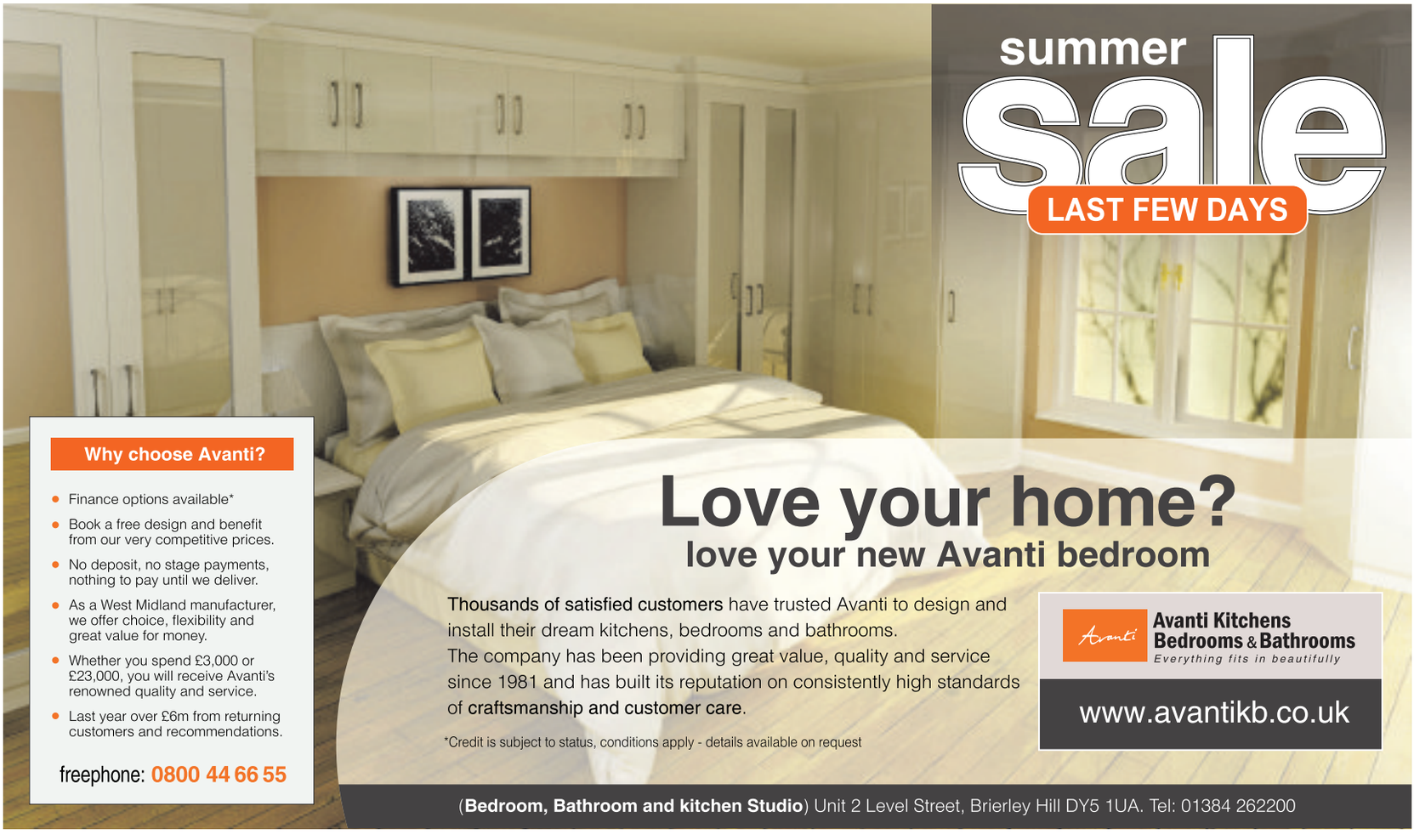
1.40 Storage Wars **2.10 Film:** Spartacus (1960) **6.00** World Series of Darts: Sydney **9.30** Storage Wars **10.00** Cycling **11.00 Film:** Air America (1990) **1.20** Hogan's Heroes **1.50** Cycling **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** Made in Chelsea LA **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30** The Big Bang Theory: Access All Areas **5.00** The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** Rude Tube **2.20** How I Met Your Mother **3.05** 2 Broke Girls **3.30** The Cleveland Show **4.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.40** Revenge

Film4

11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **1.00** Rat Race (2001) **3.10** The Last Mimzy (2007) **5.00** Casper (1995) **7.00** Evolution (2001) **9.00** Shutter Island (2010) **11.40** Lesson of the Evil (2012) **2.15** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **4.00** Close



CHOICE

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

Big Blue Live (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. Matt Baker, Liz Bonnin and Steve Backshall present a three-part series observing the wide variety of sea creatures that gather in California's Monterey Bay, including many endangered species. Liz discovers why the area attracts so many animals, Steve goes in search of humpback whales and Matt watches a shoal of 25,000 sardines. Plus, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall investigates the conservation of endangered species, and looks at the history of whaling. Featuring contributions from scientists working at local research centres.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix. Coverage from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani visit Powis castle, taking a tour of the gardens and finding out about a locally brewed beer made with honey. Matt also climbs 40 feet in the air to prune Britain's biggest yew hedge, while Anita meets volunteers delivering locally grown fruit and vegetables. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.00 Big Blue Live. New series. Matt Baker, Liz Bonnin and Steve Backshall present a three-part series observing the wide variety of sea creatures that gather in California's Monterey Bay, including many endangered species. Liz discovers why the area attracts so many animals, Steve goes in search of humpback whales and Matt watches a shoal of 25,000 sardines. Plus, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall investigates the conservation of endangered species, and looks at the history of whaling. Featuring contributions from scientists working at local research centres.

8.00 Casualty. Part two of two. Max and Zoe's wedding day arrives, but someone has developed cold feet. Medical drama, starring Jamie Davis and Sunetra Sarker.

9.00 Partners in Crime. Part two of three. Tommy and Tuppence feel certain they have identified the spy – only for their prime suspect to turn up dead. They both have different ideas about who killed him.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring West Bromwich Albion v Chelsea, Everton v Manchester City and Watford v Southampton.

11.40 Film: Eurotrip. (2004) Comedy, starring Scott Mechlowicz.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Instant Gardener. (R) **6.45** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Live Athletics: World Championships. **3.00** Live Triathlon. **4.15** Equestrian: European Jumping Championships. **5.15** Triathlon.

6.00 Rugby Union. France v England. Highlights of the Test match at the Stade de France, as the sides continued their preparations for next month's World Cup. (R)

7.00 Athletics: World Championships Highlights. Gabby Logan presents action from the second day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, including the conclusion of the heptathlon and the 100m final.

8.00 Dragons' Den. The panel considers a business proposal involving vegetables in disguise, and is asked by a scientist to help him demonstrate his plans by mixing up a strange concoction.

9.00 Odyssey. Peter finally makes contact with Yusuf Qasim while Ruby is forced to come to terms with the fact that her mission is not yet complete.

9.45 Country Strife: Abz on the Farm. The couple's plans seem doomed when their mortgage falls through. They get back on track by buying a smallholding at auction, but find their new home has plenty of problems.

10.15 Family Guy. Meg convinces Brian to take her SATs for her, but when she receives poor exam results everyone begins to question how smart the dog really is.

10.35 Family Guy. Peter takes up smoking, and is quickly approached by an advertising executive to be the face of a new campaign – for an anti-smoking group.

11.00 Family Guy. Peter and his friends fight to save their favourite booth in the Drunken Clam after it is claimed by another group of men.

11.20 Film: The Ring. (2002) A journalist investigates teenage deaths linked to a videotape, which is rumoured to cause the demise of anyone who watches it. Horror remake, with Naomi Watts and Martin Henderson.

1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Sir Stanley Matthews: The Wizard of Wembley. (R) **2.30** Live Athletics: World Championships. **4.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit II. (1980) Road comedy, starring Burt Reynolds. **3.35 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement. (2004) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.45** Catchphrase.

6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Animal Mums. New series. Nature documentary revealing how animals cope with the demands of raising their offspring. The first episode features gorillas, rhinos, highland cows and newborn lambs.

8.00 Midsomer Murders. The launch of the latest sparkling wine by Midsomer Vinae Winery falls flat when critic Nadia Simons gives it a scathing review, then guests sampling the vintage start to collapse. Owner William Carnarvon suspects the Farmers' Wives Association of trying to destroy his business, while his wife Diana frets over her mother Matilda, one of the victims. Pathologist Kate reveals the drink was laced with slug poison, but how is the attack connected to the death of a child in a hit-and-run? Barnaby and Nelson are called in to investigate. Neil Dudgeon and Gwilym Lee star in the mystery drama, with Claire Bloom, Mark Bonnar and Rosie Cavaliero. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Man and Beast with Martin Clunes. Part two of two. The actor meets doting dog owners in Tokyo, learns the truth behind snake-charming in Nepal and finds out how birds are used for gambling in Thailand. (R)

11.15 56 Up. Continuing the 2012 update in the landmark documentary series, following the stories of a group of participants whose lives have been chronicled since 1964. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** The Chateau Impney Hill Climb. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Return of the Black Death: Secret History. One of the most devastating pandemics in human history, the Black Death swept through London in 1348, killing old and young, rich and poor, within days of their first symptoms. Received wisdom has long suggested the culprit was bubonic plague, spread by the fleas of infected rats, and an unexpected discovery made by Crossrail engineers working on a shaft on the edge of London's Charterhouse Square in 2013 provides a new insight into how the disease passed from host to host. This documentary follows experts from a range of disciplines as they pick through the evidence, reveal why the disease killed on such a large scale, and discuss how it still poses a threat today. (R)

8.00 Time Crashers. New series. Tony Robinson presents a show in which 10 celebrities experience life in different eras. In the first episode, they must work as servants in an Elizabethan manor house.

9.00 Film: Les Miserables. (2012) Premiere. A former prisoner tries to lead an honest life in post-revolutionary France, despite being pursued everywhere by a fanatical police inspector. He promises a poverty-stricken factory worker that he will raise her child, a relationship that gives his life new meaning, but both of them are drawn into an uprising against the reinstated monarchy. Musical, starring Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway.

12.10 Film: Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps. (2010) **2.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Jamie's Money Saving Meals. (R) **5.00** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.10** Paw Patrol. **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.50** Zack and Quack. **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.30** LazyTown. (R) **8.55** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.25** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.00** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20 Film:** Michael. (1996) Fantasy comedy, starring John Travolta and Andie MacDowell. Edited for language and violence. **3.20 Film:** Pete's Dragon. (1977) Musical fantasy, starring Jim Dale. **5.25 Film:** The Sword in the Stone. (1963) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Rickie Sorenson.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Action from the fourth day of the series-concluding Fifth Test, which comes from the Oval. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. Officers take on a crook who has devised a crafty scheme to get something for nothing, while PC Barry Peach is confronted by a foul-mouthed pensioner. The teams also tries to catch a pair of four-legged runaways heading in the direction of a busy motorway. Vinnie Jones presents.

9.00 Film: Snitch. (2013) Premiere. A man learns his estranged son is facing 10 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, so makes a deal with the authorities. In return for the charges being dropped, he will go undercover as an informant in a drug trafficking operation, putting his life on the line to bring the cartel down. Crime thriller, starring Dwayne Johnson and Susan Sarandon.

11.15 Film: Fight Club. (1999) A disillusioned office worker and his mysterious friend start a club where frustrated men vent their anger in bare-knuckle fighting. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton.

1.50 SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: The Belgian Grand Prix – Highlights **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2010) **10.50** Top Coppers **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.25** Family Guy **12.45** Top Coppers **1.15** Don't Tell the Bride **2.15** Dead Air **2.35 Film:** Old Dogs (2009) **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.05** When Worsley Met Roy: Sir Roy Strong at 80 **9.05** Darcey Bussell's Looking for Audrey **10.05** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **12.05** Juliette Binoche: Antigone at the Barbican **1.35** When Worsley Met Roy: Sir Roy Strong at 80 **2.35** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.50 Take Me Out **1.20** The X Factor: Olly & Caroline's Top 10 **2.20 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **4.10** You've Been Framed!: Holidays **5.10** The X Factor: Nick & Rita's Top 10 **6.15 Film:** Hulk (2003) **9.00 Film:** The Holiday (2006) **11.40** Safeword **12.30 Film:** Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1997) **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.30 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.35** A Touch of Frost **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **8.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** The Mighty Mississippi with Trevor McDonald **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.35** Northern Lights **11.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.30** Blue Murder **2.45** On the Buses **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
6.10 Football's Greatest: Lionel Messi **6.30** Pawn Stars **7.00** Cycling **8.00** Premiership Rugby 7s Series **9.00 Film:** Mercury Rising (1998) **11.15 Film:** Daylight (1996) **1.30** Highway Patrol **2.00** Cycling **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.25 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.30** Bad(ish) Robots **3.35** The Goldbergs **4.30 Film:** Turner & Hooch (1989) **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Rude Tube **10.00** Gogglebox **12.10** Tattoo Fixers **1.15** Young, Free & Single **2.20** Rules of Engagement **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **1.00** Big Miracle (2012) **3.05** Tooth Fairy (2010) **5.10** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **6.45** The Women (2008) **9.00** Warm Bodies (2013) **10.55** Sinister (2012) **1.05** Don't Look Now (1973)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

TUESDAY
Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The estranged members of the Danville family are reunited when their patriarch, a prominent politician, is murdered. However, one of them is missing - an unstable daughter who was abandoned in a mental institution years before. When news reaches them that she escaped on the night of the killing, they realise she could be the culprit - and they could be next. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner. (2008)

Gone Baby Gone, Friday, BBC1, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY
Obsessed, BBC1, 11.35pm
An executive with a successful job and a happy family life finds his world crumbling around him when a temporary worker is assigned to his office. The new arrival becomes fixated on him, going to desperate lengths to seduce him. Thriller, starring Idris Elba, Beyonce Knowles and Ali Larter. (2009)

THURSDAY
Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A divorcee suspects a daycare centre of mistreating her young daughter. When the girl's increasingly awkward behaviour arouses suspicion, the mother plants a hidden camera on the premises. Thriller, with Kayla Ewell. (2014)

FRIDAY
Gone Baby Gone, BBC1, 11.35pm
A tough Boston neighbourhood becomes the centre of a media circus when a four-year-old girl goes missing. A private detective is reluctantly drawn into the case when the child's aunt hires him to find her, and while investigating around the area where he grew up, he uncovers secrets and deceit surrounding the disappearance. Drama, with Casey Affleck. (2007)

Katie and guests hit all the right notes

Apparently, just as a performance is about to begin, acclaimed British double bassist Chi-Chi Nwanoku feels as if she's taking her marks at the starting blocks on an athletics track.

Then, when the conductor's baton comes down, Nwanoku is straight out of the blocks, working towards the finishing line.

Actually, this admission from the London-based musician of Nigerian and Irish descent isn't that surprising, because from the age of eight, Chi-Chi was destined for an international career as a 100-metre sprinter.

At 16, she narrowly missed qualifying for the 1972 Munich Olympics, and two years later was on track for the next Games in Montreal.

Then disaster struck – a knee injury meant that she could never again compete at a national level. Devastated, she returned to school, and thankfully discovered that fate had something positive in store for her – music.

Nowadays, Nwanoku is established as principal bass with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, as well as being a chamber-music performer and professor of double-bass studies at London's Trinity College of Music.

She is also the host of a weekly requests programme on BBC Radio 3 and was a jury member of BBC2's Classical Star.

Tonight, she joins Katie Derham for this week's jam-packed edition of weekly magazine show Proms Extra.

The pair will be joined by baritone Roderick Williams, who may be feeling a little sleepy after performing Bach's much-loved Magnificat, Mass in G minor and Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 alongside the BBC Singers and the Academy of Ancient Music during last night's Late Night Prom at the Royal Albert Hall.

Williams will also be looking forward to his next Proms appearance on September 11 when he is taking to the stage alongside conductor Sir Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic to sing part of Elgar's intoxicating The Dream of Gerontius.

Among the other Proms highlights up for discussion tonight are Bach's solo violin works, which were performed so memorably by violinist Alina Ibragimova at the end of July.

Katie, Chi-Chi and Roderick also look back on the National Youth Orchestra's annual visit to the Proms a fortnight ago where they focused on Mahler's bitterly beautiful Ninth Symphony.

Their concert also opened with the world premiere of Tansy Davies's Re-greening, a celebration of spring written specially as a complement to Mahler's aforementioned work.

Finally, there is footage and discussion of Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, who performed at the Albert Hall on Tuesday in a concert that was broadcast last night on BBC4.

Barenboim took to the piano to play a trio of challenging pieces – Beethoven's Triple Concerto, Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony.

And if all that wasn't enough, David Owen Norris once again gets 'Inside the Score' – delving deeper into the some of the music heard at the 121st season of the Proms.

Katie Derham features in Proms Extra 2015, Saturday, BBC2, 7pm

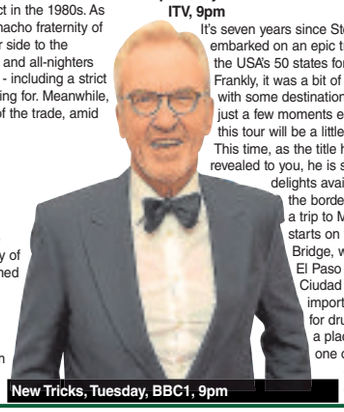
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Travel Guides
ITV, 9pm
The tourists stay closer to home as they sample what the Lake District has to offer. The Boyles from Dorset are amazed by the jaw-dropping scenery, but soon question if a small caravan is enough to accommodate their lively brood of kids, while a trip to Keswick pencil museum does nothing to convince Honor Chapman-Blackwell and her boyfriend Jonjo of the area's charms. Simon and Jayne Brearley face a battle persuading son Ben of the pleasures of hiking up a hill, while a trip to a local climbing centre nearly spells disaster for model Riah. Last in the series.

Muslim Drag Queens
Channel 4, 10pm
Ian McKellen narrates this First Cut documentary providing unprecedented insight into the UK's clandestine gay Asian community, which provides a vital lifeline and haven for young men who are unable to publicly reconcile their sexuality with their cultural identity and traditions. The film focuses on the stories of three of the 100 to 150 Muslim drag queens who face the seemingly insurmountable challenge of gaining acceptance and tolerance within their own communities.

TUESDAY
New Tricks
BBC1, 9pm
Ted leads an investigation into the apparent suicide of a city trader who was embroiled in the cut-throat world of London's financial district in the 1980s. As the team delve deeper into the macho fraternity of 'The Wolfpack', they find a darker side to the debauchery, secret hand signals and all-nighters that bonded the traders together - including a strict hierarchy that might be worth killing for. Meanwhile, Steve tries to learn some tricks of the trade, amid his own financial crisis.

WEDNESDAY
Witnesses
Channel 4, 10pm
Kaz Gorbier is now in police custody, seemingly removing the immediate threat, but the mystery of who has been placing the exhumed bodies in various show-homes remains unsolved. Paul and Sandra push their abilities to the limit as they work to achieve closure, and as their investigation draws closer to its conclusion, dark secrets from Le TrÈport's past begin to resurface - with devastating consequences.


New Tricks, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Stephen Fry's Central America
ITV, 9pm
It's seven years since Stephen Fry embarked on an epic trip to each of the USA's 50 states for the BBC. Frankly, it was a bit of a rushed job, with some destinations appearing for just a few moments each. Hopefully, this tour will be a little more in-depth. This time, as the title has already revealed to you, he is sampling the delights available south of the border, beginning with a trip to Mexico. Stephen starts on the Sante Bridge, which separates El Paso in Texas from Ciudad Juarez, an important transit point for drug cartels - and a place regarded as one of Mexico's most dangerous cities. En route to Chihuahua, he meets some of the area's cowboys.

FRIDAY
Ripper Street
BBC1, 9pm
Long Susan has convinced the world her solicitor Capshaw shot Reid and was solely responsible for the train crash, and while the inspector remains in a coma Drake and Jackson struggle to cope. Meanwhile, a destructive gang of youths unleashes hell upon the streets by night, murdering a pub landlord. The trail leads detectives into the heartland of one of the city's oldest trades - the London Breweries - where conflicted loyalties reign and grief and anger create a potent concoction.

BBQ Champ
ITV, 9pm
Myleene Klass turns up the heat as the competition reaches its mouth-watering finale, and you have to hand it to her - it must have taken a phenomenal amount of effort to remain so slim while being surrounded by a seemingly endless array of tasty treats. She faces temptation one last time tonight, as the four remaining contestants pull out all the stops in the battle to be crowned BBQ Champ 2015, and take home a cash prize of £25,000.

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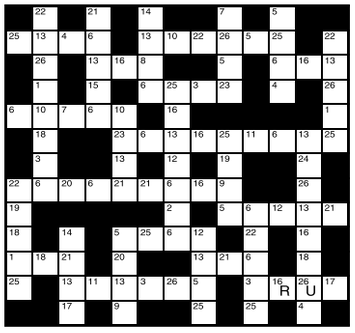
BRAIN GYM No.339

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



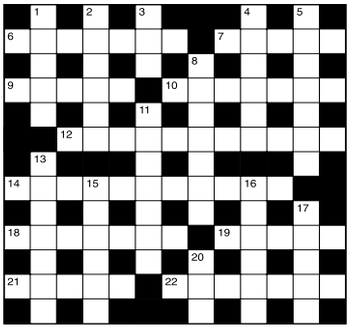
1	14
2	15
3	16 R
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26 U

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
U	A	N	Y	S	M	E	T	L	Z	R	B	Q
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	C	K	O	J	H	G	X	W	D	I	V	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. See 22 Across
7. See 21 Across
9. Very resistant to a cry of disgust (5)
10. Case for barrister's clothing (7)
12. Screen idol on the decline? (7-4)
14. Sorts out the confusion and submits a requisition (4,2,5)
18. See 19 Across
19 & 18Ac. He's expected to disclose liquid assets (5-7)
21 & 7Ac. The telling phrases of the boxing reporter? (5,5)
22, 6Ac & 11Dn. Do his schemes have urbane rusticity? (4,3,7,7)

Down

1. Two companies getting a commodity from Africa (5)
2. Imagine being reformed without one - it's quite puzzling (6)
3. Equip with some of the nuclear missiles (3)
4. Feels the absence of the girls (6)
5. One with a big bill could be in place (7)
8. They refuse to permit flags (7)
11. See 22 Across (7)
13. Peculiar piece of bric-a-brac given to us (7)
15. Change over a power regulator (6)
16. She's embraced by Pamela in ecstasy (6)
17. Pretend to sound indistinct (5)
20. A greyhound, maybe, to follow (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. To the letter (7)
7. Drive back (5)
9. Vacillate (5)
10. Abstemious (7)
12. One of the terms (11)
14. Remedying (11)
18. Stealthily (7)
19. Scatter (5)
21. Jocund (5)
22. Bias (7)

Down

1. Vie (5)
2. Decorous (6)
3. Method (3)
4. Dishonesty (6)
5. Blessing (7)
8. Quarantine (7)
11. Sanction (7)
13. Silence! (2,5)
15. Coaches (6)
16. Election (6)
17. Creature (5)
20. Charge (3)

Sudoku

		7				1		6
	2	5		4	1		9	7
3						2		
		6		7			1	
5			4	2	9			
	4			3		5		
7		8						3
	5		9	6			2	4
2						6		1

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	3	6	7	5	8	2	9
2	5	8	9	3	1	6	7	4
7	9	6	8	2	4	1	3	5
6	8	2	1	5	3	4	9	7
9	4	1	7	8	2	3	5	6
5	3	7	4	9	6	2	8	1
3	2	4	5	6	7	9	1	8
1	7	9	2	4	8	5	6	3
8	6	5	3	1	9	7	4	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Wine-taster; 7 Inner; 8 New leaf; 10 Hastened; 11 Fair; 13 Racial; 15 Violet; 17 Wool; 18 Mirthful; 21 Lie down; 22 Rolls; 23 Daisy chain. Down: 1 Wants; 2 Norseman; 3 Tender; 4 Sawn; 5 Eyeball; 6 Withdrawal; 9 First-class; 12 Victoria; 14 Cholera; 16 Picnic; 19 Felon; 20 Tots. QUICK - Across: 1 Conscience; 7 Exact; 8 Mariner; 10 External; 11 Ramp; 13 Renown; 15 Meaner; 17 Both; 18 Constant; 21 Emblems; 22 Bravo; 23 Despondent. Down: 1 Chart; 2 Nut-brown; 3 Combat; 4 Earn; 5 Contain; 6 Penetrable; 9 Reparation; 12 Feasible; 14 Notable; 16 Poison; 19 Apart; 20 Help.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What was the nickname of jazz pianist Ferdinand Morton?
2. What was the imaginary flying island in Gulliver's Travels?
3. Who are the feuding families in Romeo and Juliet?
4. What is a Sam Browne?
5. What was the nickname of Louis Armstrong?
6. What does the Sikh name 'Singh' mean?
7. In which Bavarian village is a famous passion play performed?
8. Which German battleship sunk HMS Hood?
9. In what year was the Reuter news agency founded?
10. What is the professional organisation of British magicians called?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 M; 2 Quasimodo; 3 Helvetia; 4 Grand Canal; 5 R-101; 6 2,400 miles; 7 Cain; 8 Cancer; 9 Excalibur; 10 King George III.

Niner: OUTSPREAD

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

17493 gives an animal,
356698 gives a bird,
423398 gives a fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Traditional four-bedroom semi is well-presented

AN exceptionally well presented and improved traditional four-bed semi in Dudley Road, Sedgley, comes with a stunning landscaped rear garden.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £219,950.

With double glazing and central heating it has a porch, an entrance hall with a staircase off, a dining room with a bay window and a living flame gas fire, an extended lounge with a living flame gas fire and a patio window to the rear garden, a lobby/vestibule, an extended kitchen with an electric oven and gas hob with extractor hood over, dishwasher, larder fridge, part tiled walls and a tiled floor and a ground floor shower room. Upstairs are four bedrooms (three with wardrobes) and a bathroom with a roll top bath. Outside is a driveway, garage and the rear garden including a fountain, greenhouse, summerhouse and a shed.

For further information call 01902 885894 or visit www.wakeman-online.com

Delightful country home dates back to 19th century

A DELIGHTFULLY situated detached country property, Pepwell Cottage, Norchard, Crossway Green, Stourport has 0.25 acres of gardens.

Dating from the mid-19th century the property has been significantly extended and is for sale through Allan Morris at £559,950.

It is approached down a private lane with shared access to a handful of properties. It has a lengthy gravelled driveway, a main reception hall with WC off, a main lounge with bay windows and a log burner, a dining room with a log burner, a large sitting room with a log effect LPG fire and French doors, a breakfast kitchen with slate tiled flooring and exposed timbers and with a free standing Rangemaster cooker.

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Spacious detached in popular location

OFFERS Around £209,950 are invited for this beautifully presented and spacious four bedroom detached home, situated in a convenient and popular location just a short walk from King George V Park.

12b Bells Lane, Wordsley, has an entrance porch, a large lounge with a feature fireplace, a good sized dining room with doors opening out to the garden, a fitted kitchen with contemporary light coloured units with contrasting working surfaces and splash-back tiling, first floor landing, four double bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway and a garden with lawn, flower borders and a patio.

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£379,950

SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road, Northway

ENVIABLE LOCATION! Backing onto fields and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS a conscientiously maintained, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated detached with tremendous potential in favoured 'backwater' location. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, through living/dining room, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, generous garage, gardens. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £209,950

PENN, Dewsbury Drive

ENVIABLY SITUATED! Delightful significantly enhanced gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed detached bungalow in favoured district (backing on to Penn Cricket Club). Accommodation – porch, reception hall, two bedrooms, bathroom, 18'2" lounge/dining room, upgraded kitchen, CONSERVATORY, secluded garden, brick garage, gated drive. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers around £195,000

COSELEY, Somerford Way

Superbly presented modern detached property situated in the popular Coseley area and benefitting from Upvc double glazing, gas central heating, and briefly comprising: entrance hallway, guest w/c, living room, kitchen-diner. FOUR BEDROOMS, re-fitted family bathroom,. Garage, garden and drive to front, enclosed rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price NOW £179,950

GORNAL WOOD, Windsor Close

Enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed link-detached in cul- de -sac just off Guys Lane briefly comprising; hallway, lounge, kitchen, store, enlarged dining room, three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom with white suite, WC, 23ft garage, 'sun trap' rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £170,000

NETHERTON, Racemeadow Crescent

This MODERN STYLE, SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Guests W.C, Well Fitted Kitchen, Stylish Lounge, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, TOP FLOOR MASTER BEDROOM with En Suite & Dressing Room, Driveway, Garage & Garden. EPC:

£162,500

WORDSLEY, Swiss Drive

Forming part of this popular cul de sac, this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE offers a very generous THREE BEDROOM layout which, although requiring some updating, provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL, plus a driveway and a beautifully landscaped garden. EPC D

£159,950

COSELEY, Gough Road

A superbly presented, and deceptively spacious, three bedroom end town house situated in a popular area of Coseley, and within range of local amenities & Coseley railway station.This extended property benefits from uPVC double glazing, gas central heating, original feature fireplaces, two reception rooms, conservatory, family bathroom. Private enclosed rear garden. 38 ft garage, two work shops with parking to front & rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,950

WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage (sub-divided to form store & utility room with toilet off). Garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,950

LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, intermediate "family home" within walking distance of village briefly comprising; hallway, living/dining room, rear hallway, store, upgraded kitchen. THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woods. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £142,500

PENSNETT, Broad Street

A VERY DECEPTIVE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED enjoying a DRIVEWAY and GARAGE plus LARGE REAR GARDEN, a superb setting enhancing the SPACIOUS and RECENTLY REDECORATED layout, with THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC D

New price £141,950

QUARRY BANK, Malpass Road

This THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED & WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Conservatory, Guests Cloakroom, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Driveway & Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC F

Offers in Excess of £139,950

LOWER GORNAL, Garden Walk

SPACIOUS, intermediate "Cottage" of character (with rear access) set in quiet backwater within walking distance of the village. The delightful, quaint, well presented, gas centrally heated, and uPVC double glazed accommodation provides; dining room, 16'3" lounge, upgraded kitchen, lobby, utility and bathroom. Two LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, separate toilet. LENGTHY GARDEN with rear access. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000

GORNAL WOOD, Brook Street

Beautifully presented, traditional, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, TWO BEDROOM mid-terraced property set in the popular, Gornal Wood. This fabulous home benefits from well-presented living room, attractive breakfast-kitchen, utility area, stunning Victorian style bathroom, good-sized master bedroom, stunning cottage style enclosed rear garden. Viewing Essential to appreciate what this property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

QUARRY BANK, Watchman Avenue

This THREE BEDROOM HOME now requires some updating and modernisation and comprises: Porch, Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Driveway & Rear Gardens. EPC E

£109,950

PENSNETT, Medway Close

Situated within this RESPECTED ADDRESS, this SPACIOUS AND WELL PRESENTED, semi detached home comprises: hall, attractive lounge, dining room, modern kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC, front & rear garden, garage. EPC:

£107,500

DUDLEY, Bramble Green, Old Park Farm

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Freehold, uPVC double glazed, part centrally heated SEMI DETACHED offering significant potential set upon established development and briefly including; reception hall. living room, kitchen-diner, pantry, lengthy utility area, store and downstairs wet room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE. EPC: D.

Offers in the Region of £104,950

PENSNETT, Commonside

Requiring updating, this TWO BEDROOM HOME has the potential to create a great first buy/investment opportunity. Comprising; porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, garage, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C

£104,950

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SEDGLEY, Tipton Road

Spacious, modernised, centrally heated (combi boiler), double glazed inter war semi detached of character within level walking distance of the Bullring comprising; porch, hall, dining room with bay (original fireplace), separate lounge, verandah, cellar, upgraded kitchen, utility section and cloaks. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lengthy driveway to a detached 19ft brick garage, secluded garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950

SEDGLEY, Ashen Close, Northway

ENVIABLY SITUATED backing on to open fields. Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow that has been upgraded, with PLANNING CONSENT for rear extension comprising; hallway, cloaks, refitted kitchen, 17'4" living/dining room, inner hallway, store, two bedrooms (both with fitted units & principal bedroom with patio doors out to the garden), bathroom. Gated driveway, garage, and sheltered rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price **WAS£189,950...NOW £185,000**

GORNAL WOOD , Eaton Crescent

SPACIOUS EXTENDED gas centrally heated and double glazed enviably situated in favoured neighbourhood. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall, dining room with bay, extended 15'6" lounge, extended and RECENTLY REFITTED 15'0" kitchen with utility room beyond. Gallery landing three bedrooms (two with fitted 'tulip wood' units), bathroom, large carport, brick garage, expertly tended/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £179,950

Brierley Hill, Moor Street

Situated within this ESTABLISHED ADDRESS, This WELL PRESENTED, EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME, benefits from THREE LARGE BEDROOMS and TWO RECEPTION ROOMS. Also comprising: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Kitchen, Utility, Bathroom, Driveway, Substantial Garage and Rear Garden. EPC D

New price **£159,950**

KINGSWINFORD, Granville Drive

A 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW well placed for shops & amenities, requiring updating/ improvement, providing much potential to improve the deceptively large layout. FRONT/ SIDE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a sunny rear garden. EPC E

No upward chain **£154,950**

LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

This surprisingly large and extremely well presented UPVC double glazed gas centrally heated detached dormer style BUNGALOW situated in the popular Lower Gornal area and benefits from entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £154,950

KINGSWINFORD, Halt Mews

Forming part of the styish, new Himley View development, this ALMOST BRAND NEW SEMI-DETACHED HOME offers a superb TWO BEDROOM layout, appointed to a very high standard, plus two allocated parking spaces and an attractive landscaped garden. EPC TBA

£152,950

COSELEY, Jevon Street

SO CONVENIENT! - Within immediate walking distance of Roseville centre a highly individual, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed DETACHED with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation provides hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge (with double French doors out to garden), dining room, store, kitchen, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Substantial brick garage, sheltered garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £150,000

COSELEY, Hinchcliffe Avenue

A deceptively spacious, extended leasehold semi-detached property is set in a cul-de-sac location in the popular area of Coseley. This family home benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, entrance hallway, fitted-kitchen, extended living room, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, integrated garage, good-sized enclosed rear garden, NO UPWARD CHAIN. Viewing essential. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £119,950

TIPTON, Burnt Tree, Whitehouse Street

A beautifully presented and well conscientiously maintained intermediate set in the popular area of Tipton, and benefits briefly from double glazing, central heating, porch, entrance hallway, guest W/C, through-lounge, breakfast-kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden with car-port, workshop and parking, garden to front. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £119,950

PENSNETT, Commonside

This SPACIOUS, PERIOD STYLE, SEMI-DETACHED HOME is seen to comprise: Hall, Cellar, Dining Room, Stylish Sitting Room, Modern Kitchen, Guests W.C, Two Large Bedrooms, Stunning Bathroom, Versatile Loft Space & large rear garden. EPC: F

£118,950

LOWER GORNAL, Wealdstone Drive

A delightfully presented property situated in the popular area of Lower Gornal, benefitting from UPVC double glazing, part gas central heating, entrance hall way, guest W/C, living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden to front. Ideal first time buyer property. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £117,500

PENSNETT, Comber Drive

This SPACIOUS & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Modern Kitchen Diner, Sitting Room, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Family Bathroom, Garage, Lovely Rear Garden. EPC D

£115,000

PENSNETT, Blewitt Street

This TASTEFULLY DECORATED, EXTENDED AND IMPROVED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, IMPRESSIVE EXTENDED DINING KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, CARPORT and Pretty Rear Garden. EPC D.

£99,950

Brierley Hill, Delph Road

This SEMI DETACHED HOME has gas central heating and has GREAT POTENTIAL: Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Guests WC, Utility/Store, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage and Rear Garden. ●CASH BUYERS ONLY● EPC E

£95,000

KINGSWINFORD, Catesby Drive

Enjoying its own private entrance, this IMMACULATE ONE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT is pleasantly located upon 'Charterfields', offering a spacious and attractively appointed layout, plus a REAR GARAGE, DRIVEWAY and an attractive rear garden. EPC E

£93,950

NETHERTON, Walker Street

This SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY has MASSIVE POTENTIAL to create a lovely FIRST or FAMILY HOME. With BEAUTIFUL VIEWS and comprising: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, Bathroom, LARGE REAR GARDEN. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:

£89,950

TIPTON, Bonneville Close

Superb, modern ground floor apartment which comprises of upvc double glazing, gas central heating and secure entrance doors, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, allocated parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN.EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £79,950

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Detached has £189,950 price tag

THIS three-bedroomed detached home in Badminton Close, Dudley is full of potential.

The property with an extra driveway suitable for van/caravan/holiday home parking or as space for a possible extension. It is for sale through Swinscoes at £189,950.

It has a porch, an entrance hallway, a lounge with a feature fireplace and wood-effect laminate flooring, an open plan kitchen/diner with modern white units, wood-effect working surfaces, splash-back and floor tiling, a conservatory, three bedrooms and a family bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating and a well presented rear garden and tandem garage.

For further information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk

'OPEN HOUSE VIEWING DAY SAT 22 AUGUST 11.00-2.00pm

Chocolate Box Cottage in West Wales price £107,500

A delightful little 'chocolate box' cottage set in the village of Talybont. This lovingly presented home has been greatly improved in recent years with lots of new fittings, although it should be said that the makeovers have been entirely sympathetic and with a ton of original features still in-tact, this cottages original soul and integrity have not been compromised.'

- Attractive cottage suitable for holiday lets
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Spacious home with a single-bed annexe

A SPACIOUS three/four bed house with a one-bedroomed annexe, Hernes Nest at Bewdley is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard at £395,000 with no chain.

It has an entrance hall, a WC, a living room with a Limestone fire surround with a living flame gas fire, a dining room, breakfast kitchen with a breakfast island, a utility/laundry, conservatory, three bedrooms (one en-suite and one with a dressing area), bathroom, garage, annexe with a lobby, shower room and a bedroom. Call 01299 822060 or visit www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk

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Honda's revised Jazz and new HR-V

Honda's got a lot to look at for new registration and two of the latest in the pack are the new HR-V and revised Jazz.

The all-new Jazz builds on the strong reputation of its highly successful predecessors.The newcomer retains the classic Jazz silhouette yet has distinctive contemporary styling, including a powerful new face and strong character lines.

A new platform increases overall length by 95 mm, but highly efficient packaging means that the latest Jazz is proportionally even bigger on the inside than the previous generation model. Occupants will benefit from both boot space and passenger space that are unrivalled in the class. The all-new Jazz offers exceptional versatility, retaining Honda's highly practical Magic Seat system which allows for numerous cargo configurations.

Specifications are generous across the range, with base-grade S models fitted as standard with convenience features such as air conditioning, cruise control with speed limiter and dusk sensing auto lights. Every grade comes with Honda's City-Brake Active to help avoid low-speed accidents.

The mid-grade SE model, priced from £14,595, adds front and rear parking sensors, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors and 15" alloy wheels. Honda's Driver Assistance Safety Pack is also included, giving owners the extra reassurance of five advanced active safety aids.

Those opting for the top-grade EX model (from £15,715) will appreciate smart entry and start, automatic climate control and six-speaker audio upgrade. Styling is enhanced with 16-inch alloy wheels and front fog lamps.

Access

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download from the Honda App Centre. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations.

A new, highly efficient, highly responsive 1.3 litre i-VTEC petrol engine from Honda's Earth Dreams Technology series delivers 102 PS at 6,000 rpm. This power unit delivers the sprightly driving performance of the previous Jazz's 1.4 litre engine, together with fuel economy equivalent to its 1.2 litre. Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT, emissions are as low as 106 g/km of CO2. The CVT's driveability is given a more natural 'multi-gear' feel through the use of new control software exclusive to Europe which simulates seven speeds and provides optimised gear change mapping.

The subcompact hatchback will be priced from £13,495 on-the-road for the entry-level S model.

The new Honda HR-V subcompact crossover will be priced from £17,995 on-the-road for the entry-level S grade petrol model, rising to £24,945 for the flagship EX diesel.

The all-new HR-V blends characterful coupé looks merged with the tough, solid stance of a robust SUV. Inside, occupants will find class-leading boot space. Thanks to innovative packaging, the HR-V's has exceptional versatility incorporating Honda's highly practical Magic Seats system, allowing for numerous loading configurations.

Buyers opting for the base-grade S model are well catered for, with convenience features such as climate control, cruise control and dusk-sensing automatic headlamps fitted as standard.

The mid-grade SE model adds a range of premium features, including rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors and a six-speaker audio upgrade. A 'Smart Touch' interior includes touch panel controls for the climate control.

The top-grade EX model gets a full leather interior, smart entry and start, and rear-view camera. The sense of HR-V's spaciousness is amplified with the unique-in-class, tilt-and-slide opening panoramic glass sunroof.

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is standard on EX and an option on SE models. Every HR-V in Europe will have City-Brake Active System as standard. SE or EX models will feature Honda's Advanced Driver Assist System.

There's a choice of all-new 130 PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol and 120 PS 1.6 litre i-DTEC diesel engines. Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT (for petrol models only), emissions are as low as 104 g/km of CO2.

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An elite band will travel in comfort

By Ian Donaldson

Forget the Ferrari, banish the Bentley; if you want to stand out from the crowd you need the new Volvo S60 Cross Country. It's going to be a very rare sight indeed on British roads.

Volvo reckons it will sell only 100 of these gently toughened saloons here each year, while explaining they will be much more popular in India and South America.

They're both areas of the world where a saloon car shape in seen as prestigious; here in the UK we favour the practicality of a hatchback or estate and buy fewer booted saloons. Volvo meets part of that market by offering the new Cross Country as an V60 estate alongside the S60 saloon and expects to sell 850 of them in a year; rendering it a still rare sight but not in the hen's teeth way of the saloon.

Both sit near the pinnacle of a broad S/V60 range that starts at £21,005 for the S60 with 2.0-litre petrol power (the V60 estate is another £1,200) and are aimed at owners who want a car that stands out from the crowd, while offering a little more country lane ability.

That latter attribute comes from suspension that pushes the Cross Country versions 65mm higher above the road (or grassy field) than standard cars and should help if you live along a bumpy, rutted lane.

That's the only genuinely useful upgrade for the 'active lifestyle' sort of buyer so beloved of car companies these days. The alloy looking skid plates under front and rear bumpers are styling touches only, helping onlookers tell the car apart from non-Cross Country versions if they've not already clocked its unique design of alloy wheels, black radiator grille or modest plastic wheelarch extensions.

Opt for the most expensive car in the S60 range, the £36,525 AWD Geartronic Cross Country Lux Nav, and you gain all-wheel drive and automatic gearbox, although the engine is an older 2400cc five-cylinder unit that produces notably poorer economy and emissions figures than the car tested here.

It makes the same 187bhp as the newer 2.0 litre engine in the test car but with a little more low-speed pulling power and the benefit of auto gears if you're happy to pay at the pumps for an easier life.

Single

The S60 Cross Country D4 Manual Lux NavTug tested here comes in a single specification at £33,695 (hardly worth the bother to offer more with predicted sales so tiny) but it's a pretty luxurious take on country living.

Standard kit includes leather upholstery, satellite navigation, 18in alloy wheels, headlight washers, climate control, cruise control, auto dimming interior mirror and rear centre armrest with storage and cupholders. Surprisingly, heated front seats are extra, as part of an optional £675 winter pack. Another £150 buys a slimline spare wheel in place of a can of gloop.

Slipping into the driver's seat of the S60 Cross Country brings you face to face with a dashboard that looks a lot like those you'll find in most other current Volvos – and that's a good thing. It means the instruments are big and easy to read, and the switches for everything from heating to adjusting the radio are bold and obvious.

Then you start up and move off, surprised to find a manual gearchange in a car that seems posh enough to take the auto route. But it's an easy change to use and the engine is responsive enough to let you hang on to higher gears around town. It will also help on the economy front.

My brief drive showed a respectable 41mpg on the trip computer (67.3mpg is the official, but always optimistic average) after a journey that gave no space to test the car's 130mph top speed or sprint to 62mph in 7.7 seconds.

What was tested on some poor Cotswolds roads was a ride that delighted with the way it soaked up the bumps and constant little surface irritations. So the modest band of S60 Cross Country owners are going to reach their weekend holiday cottage in some comfort.

TESTED

Volvo S60 Cross Country D4 Manual Lux Nav – £33,695

Drivetrain: 2.0 litre 187bhp diesel engine, 6-speed gearbox

Performance: Top speed 130mph 0-62mph 7.7 seconds

Economy: Euro average 67.3mpg CO2 111g/km road tax £0 first year, then £30

Safety: EuroNCAP 5 stars

Insurance: Group 29

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles

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- **Dudley Motor Company** will close its doors early Thursday 20th August in order to specially discount every vehicle on site
- You are invited to attend this **3 Day Showroom Event** from 10am Friday 21st August to 4pm Sunday 23rd August 2015 where, on top of any screen priced discount the Vauxhall Management Team will be on hand to authorise an extra discount especially for you
- **Every New & Used car sold this weekend will also receive £500 of free extras, including Diamondbrite –the ultimate paint & fabric protection for your vehicle worth £299 and a Sat Nav System worth £199**

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SUV is just perfect for UK roads

By Sharon Walters

Let's sing the praises of the current Honda CR-V – developed and engineered for British drivers and built in Swindon.

Too many manufacturers do a 'one size fits all' for drivers and road conditions to cover the entire continent of Europe, and in many cases, other countries across the world. And we all know, as with so many things, one size does not fit all.

That's why driving the CR-V is such a pleasure, knowing engineers have looked at what we need and want in a car. Et voila, the result is a 'size British car'.

Honda's CR-V is one of the most popular compact SUVs in the world with more than 750,000 sold since it was launched in 1997.

This current model was upgraded for 2015 with a comprehensive range of enhancements which made a very good car even better. These improvements included a high-power diesel engine, nine-speed automatic transmission that delivers an unrivalled power-to-consumption ratio, world-first safety technology in the form of intelligent-adaptive cruise control, city-brake active system standard across all models, a new infotainment and connectivity system and better suspension.

Boot

Where this car scores way above opposition in the segment is the massive boot. If you need a compact SUV you also need the carrying space for luggage. And the CR-V knocks all the others into a cocked hat with 589 litres of boot space with the the rear seats in place. Fold these down and you get a huge 1,669 litres – mainly due to Honda's Magic Seats where the back seat bases fold upwards and the backs down to create a flat load bay and masses of practicality.

Handles in the boot allow you to do this in just one easy action. Loading larger items is made easier thanks to the wide tailgate which opens low.

Storage space inside is also generous and caters well for family needs. There's a large cubbyhole in the armrest, a big glovebox and door bins.

The CR-V is relatively well equipped, with entry-level models coming with dual-zone climate control, 17in alloys wheels, multifunction steering wheel, heated electric mirrors and cruise control as standard.

It's available in four trim levels S, SE, SR and EX and in both two- and four-wheel drive, with the Navi option adding satellite navigation.

There are three engine options – one petrol, a 2.0-litre with 155bhp and two 1.6-litre diesels with either 120bhp or 160bhp. If you want to keep running costs down then diesels are the best option with lower CO2 emissions and greater efficiency.

I spent some time in the top-of-the-range 1.6 i-DTEC EX 9AT 4WD and really couldn't fault it. While I didn't need the 4WD in my dry, summer driving, the car proved comfortable and stable running around the lanes near where I live and also on A-road driving with a full complement of passengers and some light luggage. All three who sat in the rear remarked on how comfortable they felt.

To all of this add Honda's strong reputation for build quality and reliability, and it really is up there at the top of the compact SUV sector.

Prices start at £22,345 for the CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD and rise to £34,120 for the range-topper that I drove.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5), Combined 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions: 98g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £20,820 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail 15YM Civic Hatchbacks or Tourers registered by 31 August 2015. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. 5.9% APR Representative example shown based on Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £20,820 total cash price with 37 months 5.9% APR Representative PCP (interest rate per annum 5.68% fixed). You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Honda Franchise Dealers are credit brokers, not lenders. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **5 Years' Complimentary Servicing includes:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle. 5 years' complimentary servicing, 5 years Warranty and 5 years AA Roadside Assistance on all orders placed before 31st August 2015 is a **Brindley Honda exclusive offer.**

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Antara 5 Door SUV 2.2 CDTi 163PS Diamond FWD Stop/Start, M6: Urban: 37.2 (7.6), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.1 (6.4). CO_2 emissions: 167g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5 Door Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 140PS Limited Edition ecoFLEX Stop/Start, M6: Urban: 62.8 (4.5), Extra-urban: 88.3 (3.2), Combined: 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions: 98g/km.

Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Vehicles must be registered by 31st August 2015. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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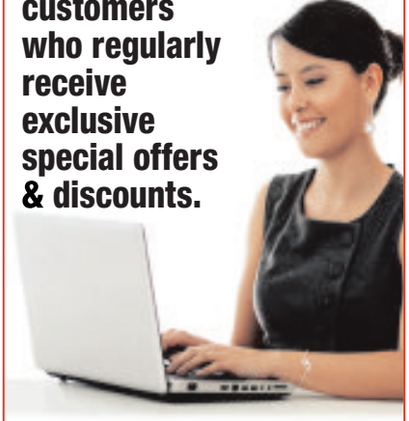

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A BARGAIN PRICED rewire, all fuseboards, lights Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

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PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted
for £695.00
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Mobile: 07866 137656

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

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Lawns cut, Borders, Garden clearances
Trees lobbed and shaped
Fencing, Slabbing...
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GAS SERVICES
- Boilers
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Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
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A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE,
FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
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Made and Fitted Any Sizes
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FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, All trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
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0121 6010479

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

YMCA REQUIRE FURNITURE Free Collection. Call: 01922 629562, 01384 231714, 01902 715249.

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OVENBLITZ MIDLANDS Affordable oven cleaning specialists. See website or call 0800 773 4870.

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A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING sevice by RC Decorating. Free competitve quotes: 07773 025880.

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No job too small
Free Quote
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Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
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BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

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removals

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REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates,
FREE QUOTES
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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

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CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in August. *T&C apply*
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G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

roofing

ROOFING
main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-8pm.
01902 722447.

S&F ROOFING & GUTTERING
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

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rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

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- AFFORDABLE SKIPS
- 2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
- PUNJABI SPEAKERS

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Mini, midi and large skips
Also available mini digger with driver
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07719 671845

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
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07904 915016

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GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD. Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast, friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Call: 0121 555 6060.

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

SAFE TRADITIONAL BLACK AND WHITE COB MARE
15.2HH, beautifully marked, 5 years old, loves jumping and hacking, good in every way, lives in or out. **£1,500. With some tack. 07938 598881.**

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ADORABALE RAG DOLL KITTENS
Wormed, vaccinated, litter trained. Vet checked, blue point, seal point, flame point. House pets only. A companion breed. **£250. No offers. 07436 002565/01902 893617**

BORDER COLLIE puppies, various colours, lovely temperament, great around children. 07444 109572.

CANARIES for sale. £10 each, flighted and unflighted birds. 07969 554758.

COCKER SPANIEL puppies, blue roan, 15 Champions in pedigree, KC reg and insured, parents eye tested clear, DNA tested clear, ready now. 07936 180943. Staffordshire.

MALE, PURE WHITE, 8 week old kitten with black splodge on head: £40. Pure black kitten, female, 8 weeks sold: £25. 07474 197925

PEN 9FT WIDE X 15FT LONG, suitable for dogs, cats, poultry, very well made. £190 ono for quick sale. 07799 756871.

LOOK
ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall. WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm.
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

SPECIAL HOMES WANTED
BROOKSIE 3yr old spayed Border Terrier Girl, loves cuddles.
ASTRID Special home a Lurcher X Saluki, friendly and affection, suffering with kennel stress, weight dropping daily.
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HOLLIE 6yr nervous collie X cruelty case, now ready to be rehomed.
01588 676106
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

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vets

Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS
Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.
So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

LARGE TRANSPORT / STORAGE YARD FOR RENT. 24 Hour access. CCTV. Brierley Hill area. May suit other uses. 07973 518895 / 01384 731953

7 Jobs

building & construction

BRICKLAYERS and IMPROVER- Wanted CSCS card required Tel 07670 274110

HANDYPERSON - for building work, Tipton area, to fit plaster board etc, CSCS card, own transport / hand tools. Call 07581 219542

SKILLED MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE required
Trade:
Carpentry as main trade.
Experience required.
CSCS Card required.
Company van provided.
Competitive salary.
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CLASS 2 HGV DRIVER for multidrop steel deliveries. No nights out. Some overtime. Call 07732 924744 or 01384 77343.

HGV CLASS 2 DRIVER Required 5 years experience plus CPC. Tel 0121 557 1776.

employment wanted

BRICKLAYER REQUIRES Work, anything considered. 07871 194208.

engineering

EXPERIENCED BENCH HAND Superb opportunity for an experienced bench hand to join our team. The ideal candidate will have experience in polishing to mirror finish, assembly and bedding out of aluminium mould tools. Based in Pensnett, RP Technologies are a progressive, forward thinking prototype tooling company. The position is available on a full time or part time basis. Please call 0121 550 5868 or email your CV to darren@rptechnologies.co.uk

full time - general

LEAFLET DISTRIBUTORS / Market Researchers/ Drivers required for national company. No experience required as full paid training given. Contact Sarah on 07970 098473

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WINDOW AND CONSERVATORY SURVEYORS
Good rates of pay for the right applicant
EXPERIENCED WINDOW & CONSERVATORY FITTERS
Required
Please forward your CV to:
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Netherton, Dudley
Recently acquired by new owners, we are seeking to recruit staff for the following vacant positions at our residential and nursing homes:
- **Registered Nurses** (Day and Night shifts)
- **Senior Care Assistants**
- **Care Assistants** (full and part time)
- **Part time cook**

To successful applicants we are able to offer competitive rate of pay, comprehensive induction/training and career progression opportunities
For further information, or to request an application form please contact us:
Tel: 01384 212785
email: admin.nursing@carecentrenethercrest.co.uk

hotel & catering

CHEF Approximate hours 30+ Some weekends off, The Fountain Inn Lower Gornal DY3 2PE Tel 01384 242777

part time - general

NEWS DELIVERERS
needed in all areas of Kingswinford and the Woodsetton area of Dudley
Please contact Customer Services on 0800 174064

aalco
EXPERIENCED INTERNAL SALES PERSON
Must have a successful track record within the metals industry and be able to demonstrate, drive, ambition and the ability to build relationships with a variety of different customers.
Based at our site in Halesowen, the successful candidate will see all the benefits associated with working for a large business.
To apply, please send CV & covering letter to Jo Pearson - jopearson@aalco.co.uk

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SOURCING CO-ORDINATOR
This is an opportunity to build a career within a market leader in the manufacture and distribution of industrial fastenings to be based at our Tipton location. Reporting to the Commercial Manager, your role will be to operate as part of the Sourcing team, ensuring components are sourced competitively from the world market.
We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic person, who will have the opportunity to flourish within a growing, well established team.
A competitive salary will be offered, commensurate with experience.
To apply email your CV and a covering letter for the attention of Rebecca Vaughan to: rebeccav@trfastenings.com

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@ expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE 60 SLIM BLONDE AND ACTIVE
Would like to meet Male, similar.
Must have a sense of humour and be under 60.
For friendship, outings and possible relationship.
Box Number P19999 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ATTRACTIVE, STRAIGHT FEMALE
WLTM similar, age 40 plus.
Diverse interests including art/photography, meals out, rock concerts, classical music, pubs/clubs, etc.
Wolverhampton/Birmingham areas.
Box Number C20004, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE SLIM ATTRACTIVE MAN 52
Caring, GSOH, WLTM lady 45-58 for friendship, evenings and days out.
Box Number P20001 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY IN BRIDGNORTH CASTLE GARDENS
Katherine, the lady I met on Saturday afternoon (August 8) for the 1st time in Bridgnorth Castle Gardens at approx 3pm. Please contact me, as I would like to carry on our conversation.
Write Box No. P19994 (ES), Express and Star Newspaper Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE, SLIM, BUSINESSMAN
Whose caring, honest, genuine with a GSOH who enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away in UK also likes pubs, restaurants, shows and walks etc.
Would love to meet nice genuine lady, for Friendship/Relationship, aged 30-50.
Box Number P20006 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

HEDNESFORD TOWN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SQUAD UNDER 14 BOYS
Are looking for quality players for their new team this Season.
If you are going into Year 9 in September and want to be part of this exciting opportunity please email
htyds@btinternet.com or call Anne 07595 664602.

WOMBOURNE OLYMPIC Under 15's
Are looking for defenders for next season.
Also assistant coach required minimum FA Level 1 and CRC.
Contact Craig 07764 322872.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

MRS. P. CHILTERN NEE LEIGHTON
Please contact David Healey for information to her benefit.
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We buy any house

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commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots...
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and we will call you back now

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WE PAY CASH!
SOLD
SELL FAST
- Property investor needs properties in your area
- Cash payments
- We will cover all your fees
- Quicker service

AND GET A BETTER PRICE
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0800 731 1160

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
wolverhampton properties
- Legal fees paid
- No fees
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossessions stopped
- Any condition Subject to terms

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Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

LOOK
WE BUY ANY HOUSE
national homeowners helpline.co.uk
in a mess? talk in confidence we can help
WE PAY MORE
ANY AREA
ANY CONDITION *PI Group
*subject to terms
24-7 0800 085 6626
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pink run by women
*subject to terms
Property Investment Group
sell quick
- No Fees*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
- Any area*
- Repossessions stopped
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We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid
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straight forward investment solutions

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
- Guaranteed offer*
- Any condition
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- No fees*

* Terms apply
GUARANTEED
24 hours Free phone or landline
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Dewmark Homes
Part of the PI Group

STOP WE PAY MORE!
100% every time* Any Property*
Free Solicitors No Fees* Any Condition*
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01384 226086
PI Group *Subject to terms

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Call the HOUSE DOCTOR Now for the best price
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01922 689023

A Better Cash Deal
Its a simple as that, you get the best deal on your home from FIRST GENERAL HOMES
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0800 917 1233

One phone call solves all your problems
sell your house now
A guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion, any condition, any circumstances
local investor
01902 628047
0800 633 5226

Sell your house
We are just a phone call away
- Any circumstances
- Any condition
- No fees - fast completion

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Call any time
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Best Price
Sam
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0800 500 3109

I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE
Call today for a best price
0800 731 1160
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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A ONE BED FLAT to let Willenhall DSS ok. Off Road Parking and Central Heating 01902 686605

A TWO BED FLAT off Tettenhall Rd, CH, DG, Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FLAT TO LET Wolverhampton, 1-2 bed, CH, DSS welcome. Off road parking. 07718 896058.

HIGH Quality One Bed and Studio Flats Tettenhall area, No DSS. 07976 263435 / 01902 700028.

LARGE 4-BED Low Hill, CH, DG, off road parking, £675pcm. 07877 673330.

LOWER GORNAL self contained flats to let, 1 and 2 bedroom, Great Standard. DY2 2AT. £375. 07815 290860.

ROOMS TO LET, Bills Included In Bilston, Tipton and Wolverhampton areas. Call 07773 594640

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A BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOMED MOBILE HOME
Immaculate condition. Must be seen to be appreciated. Quality. Sited in Coven, near the famous Bront.
£85,000.
Fully furnished if necessary.
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An attractive 3 bedroom semi detached house, enjoying a pleasant setting in this popular tree lined road with off road parking for 2 cars. Crantock, 37 Castlecroft Road, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, WV3 8BS.
Viewing by appointment.
£192,500.
01902 743353

overseas property

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GUARANTEED
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Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
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A BEAT ALL CASH DEAL We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

A BEST CASH DEAL PAID for your property every time 01902 628047

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

ALWAYS CALL US FIRST for the top price for your house. 0800 169 1118.

FORGET THE REST and call me now for a best cash offer. 01543 499032

HAVE CASH TO SPEND on buying houses and I pay more than the rest, 01922 689023

I BUY HOUSES Any area, any condition. **FAST COMPLETION.** 01384 226087

WE ALWAYS PAY MORE for the best price now. Call Aardvark 0121 308 7786

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A3. 5dr, SE, 56 reg., 1.6 Petrol. All electrics. A/C, Full MoT. One owner. £3,450. 01902 847906.

CITROEN C3 PLURIAL, 2005, 68,000 miles, red, convertible, excellent condition, 11 months MoT, service history, any trial. £1,995. 07512 347004.

FORD FIESTA 1.2, Studio, 3-dr hatch, 07 reg, blue, MoT'd. 48,000 miles, very good condition. £2,195. 01902 650894 07804 780221.

FORD STREETKA WINTER EDITION
factory hard/softtops, black, 49k, 2 lady owners, MoT April 2016, heated leather seats, alloys, air con, good condition, selling due to moving abroad, £1,800 ono. 07482 735072.

JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE, 51 reg, 11 months MoT, FSH, good looking motor. £1,800 . 01902 785453. Wolverhampton.

LEXUS IS 220D SE
2006, silver, diesel, 2 keys, 2 owners, my wife's car for 7 years, full MoT, low miles, full leather in beige, no issues.
£5,250
07973 823945.

MINI ONE CONVERTIBLE
1.6 petrol, 2008, 51,000 miles, pepper white, immaculate.
£5,500 ono.
07743 448164.

PEUGEOT 407SW 2007, 68,000 miles, 10 months MoT, 2.0HDi, Automatic, £2,500. 07870 558755.

RENAULT MEGANE EXTREME, 2008, 1.6VVT, 50,300 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, MoT, £2,200 ono. 01902 575568.

ROVER 216 COUPE GTi
1990. Twin cam. Honda Engine. Low Mileage. Lady owner. Full MoT. Excellent condition. First to see will buy.
£2,000
01746 763419.

TOYOTA AURIS 4 sale 4 £4,444. late 07, 20,000 miles, as new, very reliable, MoT'd, FSH, Grey Mef. 01746 714470 or 07814 263474.

TOYOTA MR2 Roadster Convertible, 2004, low miles, very good condition, 12 months Mot, £2,500 ono. 07980 137788.

VAUXHALL CORSA
2008, 68,000 miles, silver, ABS, electric windows, air-bag, electric mirrors, air-con, FSH, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, PAS, alloys, CD.
£2,800. o.n.o.
07828 740856.

VAUXHALL TIGRA CONVERTIBLE
2009, 42,000 miles, silver, ABS, electric windows, air-bag, electric mirrors, air-con, FSH, alarm, MoT, PAS, Alloys, CD.
£2,700. o.n.o.
Telephone 07817 722543

cars under £1500

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
A WIDE RANGE OF CARS UNDER £1,000
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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PUNTO 5DR 2003, new MoT, 69,000 miles, SH, excellent runner, £595. 07947 527834.

FORD FUSION 1.6 petrol, 05 reg, 5dr, full MoT, AC, EW, CL, £795. 07851 213316.

FORD KA
2005, 64,450 miles, silver, ABS, air bag, MoT, PAS, Stereo
£950 ono
07970 706338

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- Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- Get up to 100% of the market value
- Free valuation. Free consultation
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Fast Sale Maximum Value
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SOLD
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01902 489 500
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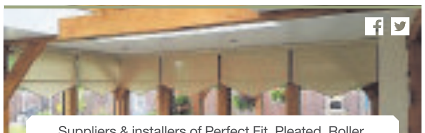

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SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTM single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTM genuine male who will accept her as she is. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763**

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTM uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking, single would love to meet uniformed officer. Must be sincere and genuine. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4727985**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419**

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513**

CARING lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4721992**

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419**

TRACY, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417417**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285**

GWEN 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233**

FUN loving and independent hot woman looking for a sexy man for fun and maybe more, GSH and grey hair preferable! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4709317**

KIND caring lady early 30s, 5ft5, slim fair hair looking for long-term relationship in Leamington Spa area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4527227**

HAPPY, fit, 77yr old widow N/S 5ft 3in, GSOH .Loves travel, many interests. WLTM man with caravan/camper to share weekends/holidays. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4492014**

LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195**

KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091**

SHERRIE 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant.**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417067**

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy.**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979**

FEMALE, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. **Text only Mailbox No: 4655519**

PRETTY slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727**

FEMALE, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. **Text only Mailbox No: 4655519**

HI my name is Zara. I am 5ft 4ins, slim build. I am looking for a genuine male aged between 45 and 50 with GSOH who enjoys going out. **Text only Mailbox No: 4362903**

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979**

DAWN attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLTM well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861**

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

SLIM fair-haired lady, 5ft4 looking for a male 30 to 40 for LTR in Warwickshire area. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4527227**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521**

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. s **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519**

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499**

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTM attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299**

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235**

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057**

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087**

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085**

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083**

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

GWEN middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415785**

ASIA very attractive slim single black 32yr female looking for fun times with god time guy with GSOH and a real passion for life and falling in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415837**

SARAH 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no strings fun with broadminded bored male. Status unimportant, discretion and mutual respect essential. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415821**

LINDA uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or time wasters please. s **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415535**

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415685**

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTM kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969**

TALL dark, attractive white male, 57, seeks attractive, Asian/black female for discreet, daytime fun, 20-45. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417483**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

PHILLIP, retired bank manager, 62yrs, seeks young attractive lady, single mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4123774**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551**

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, creative, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695**

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416603**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

MARK 41, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

GUY 57, 5'11 looking for no strings fun with same-minded slim lady. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4495128**

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416603**

GOOD looking 36 years old guy seeking a lady to have a lasting friendship/relationship with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4856812**

51 year old male divorced, good sense of humour, likes walks and animals, looking for a balanced lady to share happy times with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4860244**

MALE seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418481**

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416603**

PROFESSIONAL gentleman would like to meet a lady, any age/race for discreet daytime fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4853198**

TALL, dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out, I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463**

NEIL 51, GSOH, WLTM, a caring, sensitive lady for romantic nights and possible LTR, 32-56. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4670827**

SINGLE male, likes camping, walking, cycling, dogs, sightseeing, WLTM n/s healthy female for companionship. West Midlands safari park area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4845428**

VERY fit 5'8 sporty attractive, pro Black male seeks lady 35-58, any nationality for tactile LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4844360**

Follow us on twitter @chatlocally

COLIN 48, seeks large cuddly lady 47-56 for LTR/Romance. Single Mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4730876**

JOHN 26, GSOH, likes the outdoors, wine and good food, medium athletic build, WLTM older woman for fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4488256**

LONELY male, 57, seeks Chinese/Jamaican/Romanian male/female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418245**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157**

RICHARD 44, single, happy go lucky, likes pubs, clubs, socialising, seeking female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416995**

HAPPY go lucky male, 30 something, attractive and very social would like to meet bubbly kind lady for see what happens. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4828596**

MALE, 48, looking for a 30-45 yr old female who has an interest in countryside pursuits. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4829696**

MALE, 59, discreet, fit body, seeks lady for no strings fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4823076**

ATTRACTIVE widower seeks lady 55-70 for companionship and more. Car owner. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4828789**

ANDY 40, own home, likes keep fit, cooking, nights in/out, seeks special female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309103**

SINGLE male non smoker, looking for soul mate, laid back guy who likes outdoors, walking my dog and occasional mountain biking. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4763550**

DAVE 55, seeks tiny broadminded slim, small breasted, long hair blonde/ginger female for adult fun/LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4757127**

CUDDLY 50 year old male, hard working, seeks genuine woman for days and nights out and no strings fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4437594**

DAVE 37 looking for a nice lady any age to have a laugh with so if that's you text me. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4320134**

Men seeking men

30YR old gay guy, looking for regular meets with guys. Midlands area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418559**

GENUINE 55 year old male seeking bi male 60 plus for discreet fun txt only. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4595666**

MATURE male 70 seeking similar male for discreet meetings. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4830151**

BI curious man looking for bi or gay man in same area for fun and more - 40-50yrs old. Newport. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4366908**

Women seeking Women

LONELY mother seeks female friends for enlivening/enlightening coffee chats, likes countryside animals etc. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4860241**

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475**

36YR attractive black curvy female seeking boyish female local for relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4483526**

Friends

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841**

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215**

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
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or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

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Hales win over Stour raises tally to six on bounce

HALESOWEN skipper Rich Brooker wishes the season had only started six weeks ago.

Brooker led his side to an impressive win at neighbours Stourbridge on Saturday to extend their unbeaten record to six games.

The result strengthened Halesowen's claims for mid-table security but at the same time Stourbridge have been plunged into a relegation battle after results elsewhere went against them.

Batting wasn't easy and Stourbridge laboured to a total of 202-8 from their 50 overs largely thanks to Alex Bingham (55), Jivan Jitesh Patel (37 no), Audy Alexander (26) and Stephen Game (23).

The Halesowen bowlers too toiled in the conditions and although Brooker emerged with figures of 4-47 it was the 15 year old debutant, Shazad, who took all the plaudits taking 2-27 in his 10 over spell.

The Halesowen batsmen also found scoring difficult early but despite the loss of opener Jujhar Johal (15) the Stourbridge bowling attack offered little threat.

Ed Kilbee proceeded effortlessly to another superb century and was unbeaten on 109 as Halesowen cruised to their target with five overs to spare. Kilbee received excellent support from Kester Moseley (63).

Adam Hawker's 2nd XI slipped to a second successive defeat, this time at home to Walsall.

They are now placed third in the league table, 22 points behind leaders Shifnal, whom they face away on Saturday. Posting an under par total of 184, largely thanks to a second half century fromMark Hutchinson.

Tividale stunned by late turnaround

Tividale 1 Shaw Lane Aquaforce 2

TIVIDALE went down to two goals in the dying minutes in their Evo-Stik Division One South opening fixture.

The game was scoreless until 17 minutes from the end when Chris Rabone curled a shot past the diving Ian Deakin and into the back of the net to give Tivi the lead.

In fairness it was no less than the visitors deserved as they completely dominated long periods of the game.

Shaw Lane were quickly into their stride and they had the first chance of the game when wide man Jonathan Wufulu's shot in the sixth minute was well taken by Tividale keeper Tom Turner. He was soon in action again when he had to save from a Grant Darley header.

Tividale were now almost playing completely on the counter as they defended in numbers and it was from one of these counters that they made their first chance.

The Shaw Lane defence failed to deal with a Tividale long ball and Jason Chilton cashed in on the indecision but his long-range effort was turned over by Shaw Lane keeper Ian Deakin.

At the other end it was business as usual with pressure on the Tividale defence but they stood firm and when Shaw Lane did get through they found Turner in top form. Typically when Paul Walker was thwarted by him in the 25th minute.

The second half was more of the same with Shaw Lane attacking and Tividale defending.

On 50 minutes Jesse Race cleared off the line for Tividale.

Shaw Lane mounted on onslaught that paid off in the 90th minute when Adam Priestley grabbed the equaliser with Tividale's Martin Hill lying injured and playing the striker onside.

With Tividale feeling hard done by they switched off and on the stroke of full-time a long ball over the top was met by Lee Bennett who hit the winner.

Third defeat sees Tipton put out of FA Cup running

Tipton Town 0 Cadbury Ath 2

TIPTON suffered their third defeat of the new season and exited the FA Cup in disappointing fashion.

A sluggish start was deservedly punished in the opening 90 seconds when lack of concentration allowed Josh Harris-James to put the visitors ahead with a smart reverse shot deceiving exposed Tipton keeper Josh Morgan.

Morgan was forced into heroics time and again to prevent further first half goals but Tipton had chances in the second half through Jordan McGovern and Marvin Whitter before Cadbury settled the tie 15 minutes from time.

A finely constructed counter-attack saw Ryan Spink drive the ball home.

Cadbury endeavoured to build upon this good fortune, Joseph Brookes seeing his speculative drive well held by Morgan with barely six minutes elapsed.

Tipton were finding difficulty in sustaining any great forward movement of note and too often most forward momentum was coming from Cadbury.

Quickly returning to the attack the visitors forced home defender, Horton, to divert Ryan Spink's dangerous low cross before the half closed with Josh Morgan denying Harris-James scoring again for Cadbury.

Tipton began the second period in much more positive a fashion. A finely constructed counter-attack on 75 minutes saw Ryan Spink drive home again to put Cadbury firmly back in the driving seat. Tipton continued to try to salvage something from the game their visitors were having none of it.

Young Himley side is best in country

Himley's triumphant under-15s all smiles as they celebrate their stunning success in the ECB T20 competition at Oundle School

IT'S official. Himley's Under-15s are the best in Britain.

The talented teenagers have made club history by winning the ECB National T20 competition.

After progressing through local and regional rounds, Himley claimed finals day glory on a day to remember at Oundle School.

A semi-final success over South Wiltshire booked a shot at silverware against a much-fancied Alderley Edge outfit.

But the boys from the Black Country, under the guidance of coach Tony Lea, dug deep in a low-scoring affair to be crowned champions – the first time in the club's history that one of their team's has held a national title.

"It was an absolutely brilliant day and I am so proud of the lads," said Himley chairman and team manager Gordon Lewis. "The club have never been national champions at any level, so this is special.

"The event was brilliantly organised. It was just like the T20 finals day the professionals play in. There was music playing, logos on the pitch and all the razzamatazz associated with T20 cricket.

"Part of the reward for getting to the finals days was an overnight stay for the lads at Oundale School. They had a great time.

"It was a day the players and anyone who was there will remember forever."

Not for the first time in the competition, Himley out-bowled and out-fielded their opponents in two games were runs were hard to come by.

Prowess

Himley served notice of their prowess with the ball in their last-four clash with South Wiltshire when they comfortably defended a score of 124.

Jordan Whitehouse had shone with bat with an unbeaten half-century, with Chad Brandrick offering support with 29, before the bowlers took centre stage to dismiss South Wiltshire for 70.

Leg-spinner Callum Lea was the pick of the attack with a three-wicket haul while Adam Finch claimed 2-19, Brandrick 2-6 and Arjun Uppal 2-8.

Alderley Edge booked their place in the final with a dramatic win over Surrey outfit Sutton, scoring a boundary off the last ball of the match with nine wickets down.

Himley batted first in the battle to be crowned champions with Lea (50 retired) and Kris Green (25) the main contributors as they were bowled out for 104.

But once again the Himley boys were simply stunning in the field. Lea capped a fine individual display by picking up another two wickets while Brandrick bagged 3-27.

But it was Christian Fellows who took the star role.

Bowling for the first time in the competition, Fellows' swing and seam proved too much for Alderley as he bagged 4-9 to help roll them out for 77. "We didn't think 104 was anywhere near enough, but once again the lads bowled and fielded brilliantly," said Lewis. England one-day international David Willey was on hand to present the trophies.

Helen grabs series win in county races

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club had very little on the fixture list again this week there was only one representative in action for DK.

Helen Tromans ran the Clent 8k race, the final race in the Worcestershire Mid-week Series.

In a tough, hilly race over the undulating paths and bridleways of the Worcestershire venue there seemed to be far more up than down over the approximately five-mile, course.

Despite the difficulty of the terrain she was able to claim 72nd place overall in a time of 42.50 taking second in her age group.

In addition, as this was the culmination of the four-race Worcestershire Series, where three best finishes count towards the overall result her placings guaranteed the series win.

Team Dudley struggle with the numbers

Team Dudley 2 Bustlehome 4

TEAM Dudley suffered a 4-2 home reverse against Bustleholme in West Midlands Division One after having nine players unavailable for the match.

The visitors took the lead after 15 minutes with a shot on the angle from Matthew Jukes and Adam Wattley's rocket made it 2-0 eight minutes later.

James Messenger got one back on 39 minutes from close range but the Bs restored their cushion two minutes later through Jukes.

Craig Prince gave Team Dudley hope six minutes from time with his first goal for the club, but Bustleholme made sure of the points when Daniel Wood netted two minutes later.

Jordan Langford-Hill has a shot rise just over the bar late on.

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Glassboys in nightmare trip to Whitby

Whitby Town 4 Stourbridge 0

STOURBRIDGE suffered a dreadful journey to North Yorkshire which was compounded further by an equally awful result.

But Glassboys boss Gary Hackett refused to use the nightmare six-and-a-quarter-hour trip as an excuse for the Evo-Stik Premier defeat and said: "It was a surreal game. We had by far the better chances.

"We started the game well and should have scored twice within the opening five minutes.

"The final scoreline certainly didn't reflect the game."

"One of their goals was a complete fluke and two of the others were down to individual errors of judgement.

"Obviously it wasn't the start we wanted but at least we don't have to wait long for a chance to try and turn matters around."

Stourbridge went behind after six minutes when Michael Roberts threaded Matthew Walters through and he scored after goalkeeper Charlie Price blocked the initial shot.

Whitby struck again on 53 minutes when Ross Gardner's right wing cross somehow sailed over Price's head into the net.

Eleven minutes later Roberts beat Price in a race for possession and rolled the ball home from fully 35 yards out the ball clipping the base of the post on it's way into the net.

Stourbridge's miserable afternoon was complete on 90 minutes when Price could only block an attempt on goal from Whitby's Ibrahim Hassan and the ball fell for James Brown to net.

AChris Knight shot was kept out by the legs of goalkeeper Shane Bland.

Double comeback sees Stourbridge come away with win

Stourbridge 4 Nantwich 3

STOURBRIDGE came from behind twice to claim all three points in a thrilling match at Amblecote against Nantwich Town.

The visitors took the lead after 15 minutes when Glassboys keeper Charlie Price could only punch the ball to Matt Bell, who calmly netted.

But Karl Hawley drew the scores level after 38 minutes when he was first to react to a rebound in the box.

The scores stayed level until four minutes into the second period when the Cheshire side regained the advantage. A corner was only half-cleared and Darren Thornton lobbed the ball over the keeper into the net.

Stourbridge were level almost immediately when Hawley grabbed his second from the edge of the area.

The Glassboys were then awarded a penalty when Matt Dodd was felled in the area on 59 minutes, and he took the kick himself to make it 3-2.

Stourbridge had a two-goal cushion after Kayleden Brown scored, but the home side faced a nervy last few minutes after a Matty Kosylo penalty made it 4-3.

Own goal gives Yeltz the victory

Halesowen Town 1 Colwyn Bay 0

Football

HALESOWEN raised the curtain on a new season with a gritty victory over newly relegated Colwyn Bay which came from an own goal.

But the Yeltz had to rely on an early own goal and then kept out a second half penalty to secure the points in an often scrappy encounter.

After a tentative opening, the Seagulls gifted Halesowen the winning goal after just 16 minutes when Jordan Fagbola's backwards header looped into the net over his own goalkeeper Chris Sanna after home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant pumped a long free-kick forward. The visitors then created half chances for Robbie Booth, Chris Sharp and Sam Barnes whilst Halesowen went close through headers from Anthony Charles and Danny Bragoli.

Colwyn continued to create the better chances after the interval with Sharp striking over the bar in front of goal and a Rob Hopley effort was scrambled off the line.

Yeltz frontrunner Greg Pearson then burst forward but his cross was snatched off the head of Connor Collins by Sanna.

Halesowen goalkeeper Sargeant dived brilliantly to his right to keep out Sharp's 58th minute penalty kick after Cory Williams was brought down and Sharp drove another good chance wide in the 74th minute as the Seagulls continued to be wasteful.

Substitute Michael Taylor and Pearson had late chances to increase Halesowen's lead but both were denied after being set free on the break.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Connolly, Cooper, Denny (c), Hull (Westwood 62), Morrison, Charles, Bragoli, Pearson, Collins (Taylor 75), Waldron (Darkin 59). Unused Subs: Griffiths, Platt (GK).

WOLVES BEST FORM SO FAR

Hull 1 Wolves 1

THEY say that luck evens itself out over a season. Well Wolves should be prepared to feel hard done by at some point in the near future.

For the second league game in succession Lady Luck was in attendance for the goal that added to Wolves' points tally.

Last week they got away with David Edwards' hand-balled winner – this week they were the beneficiaries of Allan McGregor's butterfingers.

But to focus on fortune would be unfair on Wolves, who on another day could have won this game comfortably.

They played their best football of the opening three games of the season and carved out enough opportunities to have won two games.

Relegated Hull City, with seasoned Premier League players such as Tom Huddlestone, Michael Dawson and Nikica Jelavic still in their ranks, represent on paper the toughest opposition Wolves will face in the opening two months of the season.

Struggling

And Wolves more than held their own, only struggling to contain the hugely impressive Chuba Akpom who created several chances for himself including three in the closing stages with Kenny Jackett's team collectively knackered at that point.

The game was billed as an early-season clash between two promotion candidates, and danger-man Afobe and Akpom – both moulded under the tutelage of Arsene Wenger at Arsenal – were set for a striker shoot-out, if not at high noon then high midday.

However it was two goalkeepers who hogged the limelight, with McGregor's error preceded by a big shock in Jackett's line-up as Carl Ikeme was unceremoniously dumped from the XI for the first time since he claimed the number one jersey in August 2012.

His replacement Emiliano Martinez, another man raised at the Emirates, had looked nervy against Newport but, some questionable kicking aside, didn't put a foot wrong on his Wolves league debut and made one excellent first half save from Akpom. As Jackett admitted afterwards it was a big call to drop Ikeme, who will no doubt feel hard done by.

Nouha Dicko of Wolves is fouled by Moses Odubajo of Hull City during the draw at Molineux

But there is no room for sentiment when the stakes are so high and Jackett's judgement has been almost flawless in his two years at the club.

For this game the head coach called for a better start after some sluggish openings in recent weeks. He also demanded his team defend better.

They did both in spades and also improved in midfield where Jackett's wingless experiment yielded its best football thus far.

James Henry continued where he left off at Blackburn, constantly looking to get Wolves on the front foot, Edwards popped here, there and everywhere in a tireless performance defending from the front, while Kevin McDonald and Conor Coady battled long and hard against Huddlestone and Isaac Hayden, the latter on loan from, you guessed it, Arsenal.

The shape still isn't perfect and there were times when it was difficult to say who was playing where.

But, backed up by Scott Golbourne and the ever-impressive Dominic Iorfa, Wolves were solid, positive and enterprising.

Four points from two tough fixtures is certainly a good start.

Mogridge wants to end run in style

ARRON Mogridge is determined to finish the season in style with some big scoring in Cradley's key reserve spot.

Mogridge piled up the points in last week's Golden Hammer, which pulled in a packed crowd, beating some of the league's top riders along the way.

And with the new averages for September due out soon, he is set to remain at reserve which means he can take extra rides if members of the main body are out of form.

The Hammer was a timely confidence boost for Mogridge as the club prepare for a crucial spell of fixtures, with a trip to King's Lynn on Friday followed by a trip to Coventry on Sunday before they host the Lynn at Perry Barr next Wednesday.

With their battle with co-tenants Birmingham for the National League title heating up, Mogridge knows they need to be on top form as they chase the top spot.

He said: "I rode well in the Golden Hammer, I felt as fast as I have all season and I came away with plenty of confidence.

"I know I can do it, and it was good to show what I could do against some really good riders. I rode sensibly and it was a big step in the right direction.

"It's just a case of starting well and finding some rhythm, which I need to do more and I'll be trying to do over the rest of the season.

"Hopefully I can carry the confidence from that meeting on to my next few and I can manage to end the season strongly.

"Every meeting is obviously very important for us now with Birmingham holding that healthy lead at the top of the table.

"We need everyone on form."

Decisive high-five for Sports squad

Dudley Sports 5 Smethwick 1

DUDLEY Sports came from behind to hammer Smethwick Rangers 5-1 in the West Midlands Premier.

Yusif gave the visitors the lead with a 40th-minute header but Stuart Hillman equalised almost straight away when he slotted the ball under the keeper.

Sports dominated the second half and went in front on 65 minutes when Aaron Gordon's free-kick was deflected past the keeper by a defender.

Shepherd Machingauta made it 3-1 before Lucas Muckley volleyed home for the fourth.

Hillmans grabbed the fifth – his own fifth of the season – when he stroked the ball home.

★★★

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